

Latest Information with regard to Australia Felix first appeared in 1840 and was printed at the offices of the Port Phillip Gazette. The first book printed and published in Melbourne, its author, George Arden, was editor and co-founder of the Gazette with Thomas Strode. The volume was later issued in London with a modified title. Copies of both editions are exceptionally rare. In re-issuing the first edition, original pagination and format have been retained, although page depth has been increased in allowance for modern typesetting. For this edition a List of Contents has been inserted after the Title page and an Index after the advertisements. Apart from these additions the collation follows identically that of John Ferguson's Bibliography, ref. 2909.

In a footnote to page 87, the writer (Arden) refers the reader to '... the supplement which contains all the items of information useful to a resident.' The Publisher has been unable to find any evidence that this supplement was actually issued, and it is not present in a number of copies viewed.

For a biography of George Arden by P. L. Brown, see the Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 1, page 26. For comment on Latest Information, see 'Fictitious History' by T. O'Callaghan, in the Victorian Historical Magazine, Volume 11, No. 1, (1926).



LATEST INFORMATION
WITH REGARD TO
AUSTRALIA FELIX,
THE FINEST PROVINCE OF THE GREAT TERRITORY
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES;
INCLUDING
THE HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, NATURAL RESOURCES,
GOVERNMENT, COMMERCE, AND FINANCES
OF
PORT PHILLIP;
SKETCHES OF THE ABORIGINAL POPULATION,
AND
ADVICE TO IMMIGRANTS;
BY
THE EDITOR OF THE PORT PHILLIP GAZETTE,
MELBOURNE.

ARDEN AND STRODE, PRINTERS, GAZETTE OFFICE, AUSTRALIA FELIX.

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Index

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PREFACE

At the request of almost every resident in Melbourne, expressed at various times and in different ways, the writer is induced to offer to the public, a pamphlet on Port Phillip.

Its pages have been compiled with the belief, that a sketch of Australia Felix, her present position, and future prospects, would meet with a remunerating extent of circulation, both here and in the neighbouring colonies, and would convey in a small but commodious shape, much desirable information, to all who may be interested in her prosperity.

The writer has endeavoured, from observations and inquiry, to make these pages comprise as much intelligence upon the comparative advantages of the province, as might prove of real *utility* to the reader.

In so small a compass, pictures of local society, manners, and excursions, have been necessarily eschewed. Nothing is laid before the reader, that has not some relation to his future destiny, as a member of a young and adventurous colony.

With this express object in view, the work has been moulded into short divisions; that upon History, being an account of those steps and incidents, by which the formation and establishment of the district was brought about from the date of the earliest attempts to colonize the land, to the period of its ultimate erection into a dependancy of New South Wales, under the rule of a Lieutenant Governor.

Scanty as the intelligence upon this subject may appear, the writer assures the public, that during the time he was employed in obtaining accounts of those circumstances under which the first settlement was effected, two or three months had passed before any thing like a connected chain of events could be recorded in his *memoranda*.

For the statistical tables interwoven with the work, the writer has had to depend rather upon calculation than documentary evidence, for previous to the arrival of His Honor the Superintendent,

the want of a central office, from which the business of government might emanate, and having circulated return, rendered it impossible, without reference to the Colonial Secretary's Office, to obtain exact numerical results.

The chapter upon Aboriginal Traits, &c., was the production of several conversations with various gentlemen settled in the district, but more particularly the Chief Protector, whose frequent absence, however, delayed the attainment of the writer's desire.

It will be seen, therefore, that the undertaking, inefficient as it appears, has been attended with considerable difficulties, while from the impossibility of joining discursive and ornate matters to the subject of this pamphlet, the author is conscious that its contents, although important, are, except to those requiring information and advice, void of interest. He has only, therefore, to trust, that the abstract utility of the publication, will secure to him that small degree of credit, which will be amply sufficient to reward his labour.

Gazette Office, Melbourne. }
April, 1840.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

WHILE the province of South Australia has received every aid that the powerful and universal agency of the British Press could afford, the incipient colony of Australia Felix has been successfully, although silently, pursuing a course of prosperity, in all things equal, in many superior, to her more favored sister.

South Australia has been supported by a wealthy landed proprietary at home, and cherished by legislative enactments, which have placed its fortunate inhabitants, in a political and moral point of view, immeasurably above the dependencies of the penal colonies; the regulations of her government are so happily in consonance with that inherent spirit of justice and freedom which Britons look to as the means of protection and prosperity in every portion of the habitable globe, as to give them a decision of counsel and a power of action which cannot, in the end, fail to carry them through all the difficulties that have so early beset their adventurous career. Australia Felix, from her favorable position, both as regards the actions of nature and of man, has acquired a foundation for future stability hitherto unparalleled in the history of colonization. The resources of colonial wealth—agriculture and wool culture, have been more easily introduced here than in South Australia.

- 1.—From the greater proximity of its principal port to those of Van Diemen's Land and Sydney.
- 2.—From the superior facilities of communication, which, between these, have so happily existed.
- 3.—From the *active* experience of its first enterprising inhabitants.

It is indeed to this last cause that the present intrinsic superiority of Port Phillip over the sister settlements, is mainly, if not wholly, to be attributed. The greatest natural advantages may prove useless, unless the hand of experience be present to turn them to a profitable account; but the resources of Port Phillip were no sooner discovered than developed by the agriculturist of Van Diemen's Land, and the stock-holder of New South Wales. The value of the land they had cultivated, of the flocks and herds they had imported and watched over, was enhanced by the fertility of the soil, and the genial nature of the climate; settle-

ments therefore were formed and rapidly progressed; a commerce was created, which, in the value of its exports, was annually doubled, and wealth flowed in to reward the original settlers, and astonish the more tardy of the neighbouring States. Unlike, therefore, those of other territories, the calculations which have been formed of the future prosperity of Australia Felix, are built upon a certain basis, every adjunct of which has been known, proved, and found correct, through four years of actual experience. The herbage and climate of her interior *do not* lie buried in obscurity; the safety of her harbours are well ascertained, and her resources have been in many instances successfully drawn upon; the anticipated wealth also of her mines, quarries, and other sources of geological acquisition, are not built upon groundless reports, or mistaken enthusiasm; her commercial reputation, therefore, is not supported by the influx of capital, without the means of investment, but by the accession of wealth wrought out of valuable export commodities, and these the results of industry, enterprise, and experience. Acquainted with this primary position, the English reader may apply himself to the perusal of this little work, satisfied that nothing will be brought forward in its pages, which cannot be substantiated upon his arrival by personal inquiry and inspection, persuaded that in opposition to the work of Napier, it is neither composed at the instigation of interested parties, nor produced like that gem of literature under a school-boy warmth of imagination imbued with the pictures of Robinson Crusoe and Lawrie Todd. Our observations will tend to show, that while Australia Felix bears away the palm in commercial reputation, South Australia displays in her government a better and surer prospect of ultimate ascendancy.

It is not the object however of this work to draw useless and invidious comparisons between these two flourishing provinces, but rather in discovering a point of better regulation in either, to seek for its adaptation to any corresponding deficiency in the other; to announce even at the eleventh hour the position of a country which cannot, from its size, population, and distance, be properly governed as a mere appendage, and to express the just desire of its inhabitants to be declared an *independent colony*.

The solecisms which have already been detected in the constitution of one crown province, may be rectified in the formation of another; the Sydney government will then be relieved of an unnecessary burden, and a vast field for emigration, redundant with natural advantages, untainted by penal characteristics, be opened to all classes of the mother country.

It may appear presumptuous in the author to bring himself forward with a published and authenticated account of a colony which has hitherto received no established character, and is unknown to historical fame; but if his humble endeavours should prove in the smallest degree the means of forwarding his great object—the attraction of laborers and capitalists to a scene of secure independence and national respectability, the reward will amply compensate his trouble, and gratify his expectations.



CHAPTER I.

EARLY HISTORY. EXPEDITIONS OF DISCOVERY.

THE history, or rather compilation of records, which is now presented to the intending emigrant, belongs to a region so lately reclaimed from the sway of primeval nature, as to induce the belief that many living in England and India, know little of its existence beyond the mere name; to them its exact situation, particularly in regard to the other colonies of Australasia, is a piece of intelligence absolutely necessary. Another and perhaps more numerous class are not only acquainted with its existence, but also to a somewhat accurate extent, with its natural and acquired advantages; in the minds of these, however, the region of Port Phillip is confused with that of Port Adelaide, Australia Felix with South Australia. This inaccuracy of ideas has doubtless originated in the fact, that the beautiful bay and country of Port Phillip is situated in Southern Australia, that is, on the *southern* shore of the great continent of Australia, in a line with, and adjacent to the crown province of South Australia.*

To set the matter more clearly before the distant reader, he should be informed that the continent of Australia, and the island of Van Diemen's Land, with some less important dependencies, constitute the fifth grand portion of the globe, under the general name of Australasia.

That the continent, although known under the common appellation of Australia, has yet various parts of its vast extent distinguished by particular cognomens. Of these New Holland and De Nuyt's Land were first attached to the soil by those navigators, who, touching at different points, and not being aware of their general identity, passed on, under the belief that they had christened the shores of some hitherto unknown island.

In the same manner did the present British colony of New South Wales receive its title from the great navigator Cook; the whole of this continent, however, was subsequently laid down by the French hydrographers as *Australia*, who retained only, as a distinction between the various coasts, the names formerly applied to these. Thus when a company sprung up in London, and received a royal charter to colonise, upon novel principles, a portion of this continent, the allotted region was termed South Australia.

The charter to the South Australian Company was granted in the year 1835. Nearly about the same period a tract of land, situate

* The writer has received many letters, and seen others, from England, bearing the superscription—Port Phillip Settlement, South Australia. He has also received, in the usual way of exchange, Cape journals, directed Port Phillip Western Australia.

between the then boundary line of New South Wales and that of the newly constituted province, attracted the attention of some parties on the neighbouring coast of Van Diemen's Land; it was quickly located, and stocked with cattle and sheep. In a few months, the number of inhabitants daily increasing, Sir Richard Bourke, governor of New South Wales, wrote home to the colonial office, recommending that its rich pasture lands, of almost unlimited extent, should be recognised as a province dependant upon his vice-royalty. He proceeded, in the mean time, to the scene of his anxiety and speculation, and took active measures for the formation of a town and port—this town was Melbourne; this port, Port Phillip.

For some months the country, which had no distinct boundary, either natural or artificial, was commonly known under the designation of Port Phillip, which, in a short period, was altered to the more appropriate name of Australia Felix. The country immediately contiguous to and surrounding the bay, forms only a district of this territory, under the old title of Port Phillip. The name, Australia Felix, was first given by the Surveyor General, on his route through a wide extended portion of the distant and unknown interior, to a space of country spreading its rich and fertile vallies, and goodly timbered ranges, from longitude 146° E, to longitude 141° E.

In a time of great scarcity and drought, this officer was directed by the government to make an inland expedition, for the purpose of discovering a region more blessed in streams and moisture than the arid plains, shaded only by trees of scanty foliage, covered alone by herbage seared and innutritious, of the lands of New South Wales. A moment's reflection will suffice to satisfy the emigrant, that in a country, the staple commodity of which consists in wool-bearing sheep, a prolonged cessation of rain must, in checking the growth of the natural sustenance of sheep, destroy the national commerce, and entail one general bankruptcy upon the proprietors of the soil. To obviate a climax so justly to be dreaded, the prudent and far-seeing statesmen who have successively held the rank of Governors, have, from time to time, promoted expeditions of discovery into the interior, with a view of laying open a mere fruitful soil, a more genial climate, to the oft-defeated exertions of the colonists. Among the several enterprises which were thus, with varied success, undertaken, the one most in connection with the present subject, is that to which we have already alluded, the discovery of Australia Felix by Major Mitchell. At the time when this great explorer was surveying the country southward of the river Hume, searching its vallies, rivers, and mountains, the sea coast of this noble territory was receiving into its capacious harbours, the fleets of numerous private adventurers. At Portland Bay and Port Fairy, whaling establishments had been formed. At Port Phillip the natural pastures were daily becoming subservient to the uses of man, and the germ of a healthy commerce was thus nourished into existence, and cherished in its first dilation, by the discovery of unbounded natural resources for its supply in the interior.

"IN 1804 (writes Martin, the author of the British Colonial Library,) Governor Collins, who had recently left England, having in view the formation of a settlement at Port Phillip, on the southern coast of New Holland, altered his destination, after a short experience of the manifold and insurmountable difficulties attending that place, and arrived at the river Derwent, when the island was formerly taken possession of in the name of his Britannic Majesty, and after various surveys of the Derwent, the present site of Hobart Town was fixed upon for head quarters." Such is the first notice taken of Port Phillip since its discovery in 1798, by Lieutenant Flinders, and it is as singular as strange, that the port and country on which stands the present flourishing town of Melbourne, the successful rival of the vaunted Adelaide, was rejected by Governor Collins as untenable. The present inhabitants had long striven to light upon some plausible excuse for the unaccountable affront put upon their own beautiful land, but without coming to any satisfactory conclusion, when a shrewd old Vandemonian colonist remembered, that the worthy and honorable representative of the British sovereignty had been promised £500, if he should discover a port more desirable to settle in than that of his present destination, of which, probably, nothing further was known, than that from its central situation, it was well adapted to form the seaport of a flourishing and extensive colony. This intelligence afforded at once a clue to the anxious desire of Governor Collins to escape from Port Phillip but whether indeed the motive of gaining the offered reward, at any cost to others, was the only reason which influenced him in his choice of the Derwent, the writer need not now pause to inquire. It is a lamentable fact, that the present Australia Felix, with all its beautiful pastoral hills and agricultural vallies, its delicious climate and its *unceasing* vegetation, its wilderness of wood and stream, smiling an invitation to the hands of men to tame and task its unchecked luxuriance, was suffered to remain unvisited for twenty seven years, save by the solitary sealer, or the lonely bark cutter.

To return to the chain of authentic narrative, it appears that in 1798, the settlement at Port Jackson having been properly organised, the attention of the inhabitants turned to the desirable project of exploring the eastern and southern shores of the continent. Accordingly, Mr. Bass, surgeon of the *Reliance*, provided with only a whaleboat and crew of six men, undertook and carried into execution a survey of the southern coast. On entering Bass' Straits, he discovered and explored a capacious harbour, which, from its relative position with Sydney, he named Port Western. A scanty supply of provisions at this juncture compelled him to return to the settlement at Port Jackson, where his talents and intrepidity were so highly appreciated, as to obtain for him an appointment in conjunction with Lieutenant Flinders, to a small schooner of twenty five tons, in which these successful adventurers sailed through Bass' Straits, and, by the circumnavigation of Van Diemen's Land, proved its insularity.

In 1801, Lieutenant Flinders, in command of the *Investigator*, entered and surveyed a harbour in the straits, which was at first

supposed to be Port Western, the discovery of Mr. Bass; on obtaining a view, however, of the latter, from the hills on the shore, the new harbour was named Port Phillip. At the head of this inlet a fresh water stream was found, which was doubtless the Yarra Yarra, for many years subsequent, when the first camp was formed on the present site of Melbourne, a pot of European manufacture was discovered a few inches below the soil. Some difficulty exists in identifying this river, because Horsburgh, a great authority in these matters, mentions it as flowing from the northward. It is evident however that the fleet of Governor Collins was provided with a chart of their destination, probably the construction of Lieutenant Flinders, at whose instigation the original settlement of Port Phillip was attempted.*

Lieutenant Governor Collins, upon his arrival at the destined seat of his future government, made a landing at Point Nepean, the eastern head of the harbour of Port Phillip. There the foundation of a settlement was commenced, with such materials as it may be supposed a new and uncivilized country could readily afford. From the absence of a river, or any natural reservoir of fresh water, the party were compelled to sink wells in the sand, when, by a process very commonly in use at the present day, they obtained daily a quantity sufficient to supply their necessities.

While the party at the point were forwarding these operations, Mr. Grimes, surveyor to the expedition, took such a survey of the surrounding country as was deemed necessary to the future plans of the colonists. It does not appear, however, from his chart, a copy of which was given to Surveyor Hoddle in 1834, that he had ever reached or seen the Yarra Yarra, or Salt Water River, for, on being questioned, he described the principal stream he met with as terminating in a mere chain of ponds. This could only have been the brook which falls into the sea a little to the westward of William's Town, and which is marked on the chart of Surveyor Hoddle, as really only a succession of water holes.

Some degree of confusion still hangs over this and the foregoing survey of Lieutenant Flinders, for this officer noted the existence of a fresh water river in the upper part of the harbour, which, if we take Horsburgh for a guide, might indeed have been the Weirabee, a river flowing in the same direction as the chain of ponds described by Grimes; but then comes the question of how the iron pot, of European manufacture, discovered by Mr. Fawkner on the present site of Melbourne, a few days after his arrival on the banks of the Yarra Yarra, could ever have come there, to which the only feasible answer is, that if it were not left there by Lieutenant Flinders, it must have been cast upon the spot by some of the runaways of the first expedition.

The most important charge of the government of Lieutenant Governor Collins, were the prisoners who accompanied him to Port

* In the absence of all official data, and any published accounts, the writer has been obliged to resort to tradition, chiefly oral, for the purpose of recording as clear and as consecutive a chain of the events connected with this expedition, as in pursuance of his original scheme it was found necessary to acquire.

Phillip. From the desire of completing a permanent settlement with the greatest dispatch, they were allowed, it appears, a degree of liberty not strictly consonant to their peculiar position; of this circumstance many of the more adventurous began at an early period to take advantage, and favored by the wild state of the country made their escape; lying concealed in the woods, some avoided detection, and either perished of hunger in the forests, or were slain by the natives.

Three of the boys who came out as convicts fled in the same manner, two of whom after circumambulating the harbour, and living upon shell fish, despaired of obtaining either security or sustenance; they returned therefore to the camp and surrendered to the guard. The remaining lad, at that time not more than fourteen years of age, after a period of wandering, fell in with a tribe of blacks, and probably from the fact of his possessing nothing wherewith to tempt their cupidity, was received with kindness and protection.

Thirty years subsequent to this event, when Mr. Gellibrand's shepherds were landing his sheep at the point which has since been called after his name, they found to their astonishment a white man consorting with the blacks, who from his dress and habits was at first view mistaken for a native; this person was Buckley, who, as a youth, deserting the expedition to which he was attached, had grown up to the age of manhood, and lived on amicable terms with his sable friends to the hour in which he was so singularly restored to society.

It will be seen by the slight sketch we have given, of this attempt to colonise the shores of Port Phillip, that insurmountable difficulties appeared to attend its earliest operations. Indeed the want of success in discovering a navigable river, and the frequent escapes of the convicts, disheartened Governor Collins, and determined him on seeking some more favorable residence. Accordingly, re-shipping his charge, he proceeded at once to Van Diemen's Land, and finally laid the foundation of Hobarton. To that colony, therefore, his subsequent history more properly belongs.

In 1824, seven years after the abandonment of the territory, a novel expedition, intended to pursue an overland route, was conceived and accomplished by two gentlemen, settlers of New South Wales, possessing considerable experience and much enthusiasm. Messrs. Hovell and Hume, doubtless influenced by the reports still fresh in public memory, given by its discoverer, of the grassy and fertile shores of Port Phillip, left Appin, situate in the county of Cumberland, and commenced their arduous and difficult task of penetrating through an extent of country totally unknown, beset, as the event testified, with obstacles insurmountable, save to the most determined energy, the most unwearied exertion. Their travelling equipage, at the commencement of their journey, consisted of two carts, containing supplies, drawn by four bullocks; these were accompanied by six men, armed each with a fowling-piece; the two horses ridden by themselves, with a spare horse, and one spare bullock, completed their outfit. The party taking their route through Argyleshire, reached after a journey of one hundred and

thirty three miles, marked by no particular incidents, a station belonging to Mr. Hume, in the neighbourhood of Lake George. Departing thence they left the last trace of civilization behind, and entered at once into the wide expanse of an unknown interior, guided only by a small compass, and the calculations made with an imperfect sextant. At the distance of eleven miles they met the Murrumbidgee. This stream, thirty or forty yards wide, presented in its swollen waters, a bar to their further progress for the space of two days, after which time, finding delay useless, they contrived with much ingenuity to form a punt out of the body of one of their carts, a tarpauling drawn tightly round the bottom of the vehicle accomplished the desired end, and they were enabled to transport their goods dry and in safety. From this point a W.S.W. course was pursued for four days, when from the mountainous character of the country before them, it was judged advisable to abandon the carts, and such quantity of the provisions as could most easily be spared, concealing the same, till their return. From this hastily constructed depot they advanced for seventy miles, over difficult ranges, precipitous ravines, and opposing streams, relieved at intervals by strips of lightly wooded pastoral grounds, until they came suddenly and unexpectedly in view of a belt of stupendous mountains.* Here their course was necessarily altered a few points to the westward, to enable them to avoid the diverging branches of this enormous chain, and after a journey of eighty-five miles they discovered a river (the Hume), the breadth of which could not have been less than eighty yards. Two or three days were spent upon the banks of this beautiful stream, in the endeavour to find a commodious crossing place. Pursuing their course they came at the distance of thirty-four miles to another, although much smaller river, this they named the Ovens; crossing which they altered the line of their route to a more southerly direction, to compensate for what had been lost in a westerly direction, after meeting the Alpine Ranges; at the distance of one hundred and nine miles, in a direct S.W. course, they met with and crossed a fourth river, the Hovell.† The region passed over between these two last rivers, had presented a much more favorable aspect, having been often enriched with fertile plains, open forests, and numerous streams. The land contiguous to the Hovell was found to be of a quality fitted for every purpose, pastoral and agricultural. The passage of this stream accomplished, Messrs. Hovell and Hume continued their journey in a direction S.W., through an agreeable and picturesque country, the soil good and grass abundant, for eight days, when they were checked by the rugged stony surface of a mountain they attempted to cross, and the dense impenetrable nature of its brushwood and jungle grass.‡ After several determined efforts to conquer this difficulty, the adventurers found themselves compelled, for the first time, to turn their backs upon the expedi-

* Australian Alps.

† The Goulburn of Major Mitchell.

‡ Mount Disappointment.

tion, and by retracing their footsteps, to discover a more accessible road; returned therefore to the King Parrot Creek, which they had previously past, they re-crossed and followed its banks in a W.N.W. direction for twenty-five miles; here fording the stream again, they shaped a course nearly south a distance of twenty miles, when it was changed to S.S.W., until on December 16th, 1824, they reached the long wished for bourne of their protracted hopes—the Sea. Thus was their aim perfected in two months from their original departure, during which period they had traversed a line of road, in extent five hundred and twelve miles from Appin, or three hundred and seventy eight from their last station; this distance, however, is computed on a direct S.W. course, the number of miles actually accomplished must have been much greater. On the following day the party fell in with a number of the natives, from whom they learned that the name of the bay was “Geelong,” the plains they saw around them “Iramoo”, and the range of mountains, “Villemannata,” circumstances which have since served to identify the place with Port Phillip. Two days after the consummation of their labours, the travellers were obliged to return on their homeward way, for, anxious as they were, to survey a country which opened on every side so choice a field for cultivation and settlement, yet their diminished stock of provisions would not allow of a further search. Had their supply of food indeed been greater, the danger and delay to be anticipated, from swollen rivers in the rainy season, forbade a longer and more interesting examination of the newly discovered territory. The cursory view, however, which they had obtained of its advantages, enabled them to judge of its eligibility, on those points which are most necessary to a soil and herbage, favorable either for sheep or the labours of the husbandman.

That little actual benefit was the result of this expedition, the reader will already have surmised, from the fact that for many years after, the district remained unlocated. The reasons which may be assigned for this neglect are two; the first is, that Messrs. Hovell and Hume in endeavouring to take the shortest passage, forced their way over a country, the rugged and mountainous character of which could never have been rendered available for driving either cattle or sheep overland, from the settled districts of New South Wales, although the land itself, which they surveyed lying around the eminences they crossed, was of the finest description. The second is, from the curious circumstances in which it originated, more difficult to be explained.

It seems that on their arrival in Sydney, the fellow travellers disagreed between them, as to the exact position of the southern coast, they had so fortunately and with so much difficulty succeeded in reaching. Mr. Hume was of opinion that it was at Port Phillip he had seen the sea; Mr. Hovell differed, declaring the place to have been Port Western. To decide the matter at issue, Mr. Hovell was sent in a government schooner, to Port Western, by His Excellency, Governor Darling. It is not on record whether by this voyage Mr. Hovell was induced to alter his belief, or other-

wise, it only appears certain, that he surveyed the land with some care in the immediate vicinity, and subsequently, by his representations, led the colonial government to establish a penal settlement on its shores. It is unnecessary to follow the garrison to its destination, to recount the measures taken to give a permanent success to the establishment, or the signal failure which drove the executive authorities to recall the commandant, and remove the prisoners to their former quarters; it would be but a repetition of the misfortunes that befell the more complete and important expedition of Governor Collins to the shores of the sister port. Suffice it to say, that after a sojourn of a few months, it was found necessary to abandon a second time the territory of Australia Felix.

It ought not to be omitted, that the government of New South Wales, fully aware of the great expense attendant upon a penal settlement, without a free population at hand, whose enterprise and property could be safely taxed for the support of this miniature "Territorial Newgate," had opened the port for general location. No immigrants, however, were induced to settle in the new country, because the inhabitants of New South Wales, were unable to follow the overland route of Messrs. Hovell and Hume, and could not be persuaded to risk their valuable property in live stock, to the precarious fortunes of the sea; and those of Van Diemen's Land, who were more favorably placed, with regard to the means of transporting sheep to Port Western, had at that period abundance of room for the *spread* of their increasing flocks.

It would be difficult to assign any exact date to the period when the settlement or habitation of Port Phillip first became a question of feasibility among the speculative settlers of Van Diemen's Land, or the specific reasons upon which they grounded their belief, that the country was suited to their pastoral purposes. All indeed that can positively be said, is, that through some indistinct and half forgotten channels of communication, such as those in connexion with the last visit we have described, and the accounts of men who might have frequented the opposite shores for the purpose of collecting bark, the report of good land lying useless from the want of proprietors, became known to one or two gentlemen of Launceston, who, as sheepholders, caught eagerly at the idea of obtaining extensive tracts of unlocated land, on which to graze their overabundant flocks, and which, situated as these were, a few years would oblige them to sacrifice for want of room.

To render this assertion intelligible to the English reader, it is necessary to acquaint him that the *natural* herbage of the Australian colonies, is of such scanty growth, as to render it necessary to allot three times the quantity of space to each animal, more than is allotted in England; when to this he joins the insular position of Van Diemen's Land, which from its naturally circumscribed bounds, will admit of that number of sheep only which bears an exact proportion to the superficial measurement of its soil, the conclusion will be self-evident. Such an object as now opened itself to their consideration, would, they felt assured, if successfully carried into execution, be the means of enriching the fortunate projectors.

The originator easily found an individual, of mind congenial to his own, to whom to impart his plans; the latter possessing funds to prosecute the affair, entered zealously into the details laid open by the other. Thus, unobservedly, and without much exertion, a company of adventurers was formed, willing, nay anxious, to risk a considerable sum in the attainment of their object. This band of pioneers, to whom the praise of first discovering, appreciating, and practically applying the advantages which Port Phillip possesses, is due, consisted of the following gentlemen:—J. Batman, C. Swanston, T. Bannister, J. Simpson, J. T. Gellibrand, H. Arthur, J. and W. Robertson, H. Wedge, J. Sinclair, J. T. Collicott, A. Cottrell, W. G. Sams, M. Connolly, and George Mercer.

The principles by which this company were actuated, are best described in Mr. Batman's own words, extracted from his despatch to His Excellency, Sir George Arthur, and published in a supplement to the *Launceston Advertiser*:—

"It occurred to myself and some gentlemen who associated with me, that inasmuch as the Sydney natives who were living with me had become well acquainted with the English language and manners, and had acquired habits of industry, and agricultural pursuits, they might therefore be considered partially civilized; and as the available lands in this colony were occupied by flocks of sheep, and fully stocked, it would be a favorable opportunity of opening a direct friendly intercourse with the tribes in the neighbourhood of Port Phillip, and by obtaining from them a grant of a portion of that territory, on equitable principles, not only might the sources of this colony be considerably extended, but the object of civilization be established; and which in process of time would lead to the civilization of a large portion of the aborigines of that extensive country.

"In pursuance of arrangements, based upon these principles," continues the report, "I proceeded on the 12th May, 1835, in a vessel from Launceston, accompanied by seven Sydney natives, and proceeded to Port Phillip, on the south-eastern extremity of New Holland, where I landed on the 26th of the same month. On the evening of our arrival we saw the natives' fire, at a distance of five miles. I then made my arrangements for the purpose of opening a communication with the natives, by the means of those under my charge. I equipped them in their native dresses, and early in the morning we landed. I desired the natives to proceed unarmed, and they preceded me a few hundred yards." Advancing in this manner the party came upon some huts, whence it was discovered the natives had fled a few hours previously; following, however, upon the tracks, for a distance of ten miles, they came upon a number of women and children. By an inspection of Mr. Batman's journal, the writer is inclined to think this meeting took place upon the banks of the Weirabee—the Ex of the present settlers. Amongst these Mr. Batman judiciously distributed some presents, such as necklaces, looking glasses, &c., and refrained from seeking further intercourse until sufficient time had elapsed for an impression to be formed in his favor, among other tribes, through the communications of the women.

For five days, therefore, he assiduously employed himself in exploring the country along the banks of the Arndell*—the Sal-Water River of the settlers, having first removed his vessel from a spot on the western shore, named by him Indented Head, to the confluence of this river with the Yarra Yarra. On the seventh day he struck into the country in a nearly east course, from the higher part of the river, which flows nearly north and south. About twelve o'clock they fell in with the natives, on a small tributary to the Yarra Yarra, with whom, by the agency of the Sydney blacks, they established a friendly intercourse. Mr. Batman, after long and careful explanation, made the leaders or chiefs understand the purport of his visit so well, as to obtain from them a portion of territory to inhabit and possess, in consideration of a present then made, and a further tribute to be paid annually. The deed of conveyance, which was drawn up with all formality, signed by six of the natives, and witnessed by three Europeans who accompanied Mr. Batman, is annexed to this work, and will probably form an object of considerable interest to the curious reader. Mr. Batman's despatch was acknowledged by Colonel Arthur, and forwarded to the home government, with an intimation that if the territory described in the deed were placed under the judicature of the Supreme Court of Van Diemen's Land, it could not fail to prove a great acquisition to the many wool growers whose enterprise had been stunted by natural boundaries.

The views of the association met with a steady and persevering supporter in George Mercer, Esq., of Edinburgh, who anxiously pressed the notice of its claims, upon the grounds of equitable conveyance from the aboriginal possessors, upon the attention of the Secretary of State for the colonies. And in the event of his Majesty's Ministers seeing any reasons for not confirming the act of settlement by treaties, this friend suggested that a crown grant of the territory should be made to the company; they, like the Australian and Circular Head Companies, paying an annual quit-rent for the same. All these plans and overtures, however, were rejected; the first because it would tend to render invalid the power which the sovereign had assumed to himself, of granting a royal charter to the South Australian Company, to possess certain territories, the lands of the aboriginal natives; the second, because the system of quit-rents had been generally abandoned, on account of the insuperable difficulties with which it had been found to be attended.

The next in order, both as to time and importance, is the expedition of discovery undertaken by Major Mitchell. By his exertion the whole extent inland of this beautiful territory was laid open ready for the occupation of the settlers, according as time, with the increase of flocks and proprietors, should oblige them periodically to retrograde from the sea coast to the unlocated grounds beyond. It will not at this period be necessary to give more than a general outline of the object, pursuit, and end of the journey undertaken

* So called by Messrs. Hovell and Hume.

by the Surveyor General, because the more circumstantial events are reserved for detail in that part which treats of the geography of Australia Felix. In 1834 Major Mitchell leaving Sydney, took his way through the country of Bathurst, with a view of tracing the windings of the Lachlan River, and achieving generally as great a portion of useful discovery as might be acceptable to the position of the colonists at that time.

His first object was accomplished after a journey of three hundred miles, by the arrival of his party at the junction of this stream with that of the Murrumbidgee. Unchecked and indeed elated with the difficulties he had overcome, the enterprising traveller kept on his course, along the windings of this latter river, until the River Hume* presented its broad noble stream to the explorer's vision. It was his intention, by continuing his progress on the course of the Hume, to arrive at a river which Captain Sturt in a former expedition had declared to be the Darling. After a few days this point was attained, and Major Mitchell proceeded at once to follow it, until satisfied of its identity with that river. The onward course of the Hume had been examined and carefully published by Captain Sturt; he returned, therefore, to the confluence of the Murrumbidgee with the main river, and pursuing its upward course, discovered in a tributary stream, the Hovell of our former travellers. This, called Bayanga by the natives, was surveyed for some distance, in a S.E. direction. Here, in latitude 36° S., longitude 144° E., Major Mitchell struck off at an angle with his former course, keeping a direction nearly S.W., and entered upon a country which, from its fertility and natural beauty, he called Australia Felix. The grand central feature of this region was a range of mountains, subsequently named the Grampians; the highest point of these he ascended, and saw before him a glorious country, which had for ages laid waste and uncultivated, but was in every respect worthy to become the habitation of man in his happiest or most powerful state. Descending to the plains he carried out triumphantly all his plans of searching the natural wealth of this terrestrial paradise. He pursued a route marked by every circumstance of interesting excitement, over rivers, mountains, forests, and savannahs, until arrived upon the banks of a beautiful stream, on the boundary line of the adjacent province of South Australia. Launching his boats upon its picturesque and romantic waters, he traced it to its *debouchure* on the southern coast of Australia. It has been named, after a very silly fashion, by the title of a living statesman, Glenelg. From the waves of the ocean he turned his face eastward, and sought to recover his home, by conducting his party over a still undiscovered tract of country, of many hundreds of miles. At first, keeping on a course parallel with the Straits, the Surveyor General traversed a line of country bordering on the sea, and visited the settlement at Portland Bay; he found this, one of the principal harbours of his newly discovered territory, the resort of whalers from Van Diemen's Land, and that cultivation to some

* Improperly renamed by Captain Sturt, the Murray.

extent was in active progress, under the conduct of Mr. Henty, whose enterprise had led him to form a whaling and farming establishment in the bay, so early as 1834.

Bidding farewell to the hospitality of this gentleman, he passed onwards on a route nearly east, until abreast of Port Phillip, where he also discovered the indications of a settlement, by a view he obtained of the port from the summit of a high ground known as Mount Macedon. The end of his journey was as singularly successful as the commencement; he again reached and crossed the Hume, many miles nearer its course, in safety, and finally bade adieu to a country, the discovery of which will, in the future organization of the kingdoms to be established in its circumference, reserve for him and his exertions a lasting and a well earned fame.

Before closing this chapter, it should be explained to the reader why so much prolixity has been shown in the narrations of so distant a date? It was deemed necessary to dwell with more than ordinary minuteness upon the details of those expeditions which are connected with our early history, for several plausible as well as cogent reasons.

The objects for which these undertakings were planned, the circumstances which befel the adventurers in their separate expeditions, and the final result of each and all, serve to give the reader some insight into the natural, social, and political state of the colony, at various stages of its interesting history. In the reflections also which a perusal of these pages will create, useful comparisons may be drawn of colonial characteristics, as indicative of the progression of colonial enterprise and experience. The growth of modern settlements, from the first crude attempts to ultimate establishment and prosperity, will be a copy of the gradual but wonderful improvements effected by mankind in the primitive ages of the world, and the product of a favorable concatenation of time and means, as exhibited in the actual creation of Port Phillip, will be incentive to pleasure and surprise.

But above all, it was desirable to remove boldly and at once, any lurking prejudices against the advantages of Australia Felix, which might have arisen from a knowledge of the frequent failure which had attended former attempts to colonize the district. Also to show in a clear and succinct manner, by following the footsteps of the various explorers, the reasons and causes of their ill-success and disappointment, and to elucidate the superiority possessed by later colonial experience, over the mere enthusiasm or speculative enterprise of former times.

Indeed, when we consider the present prosperity of Port Phillip, her commerce, trade, population, revenue, and untried natural capabilities, although the result of only a few years, we cannot regret that its earlier settlement was not effected, for the accumulation of property, and development of resources, *without* the support of Van Diemen's Land and Sydney, would have been no greater through the exertions of twenty-seven years, than it has now proved in one fifth of that time, *with* the reciprocal assistance derived from the contiguity of the new and older colonies. It would appear, there-

fore, as if Divine Providence had especially restrained the location of this fertile territory, until a moment when penal contamination having been withdrawn, the mingled and concentrated experience and enterprise of the old countries could be exercised in the formation of a new kingdom, whose destiny among the States of the Great Australian land should ever be in the ascendant. In every well regulated mind, it ought to be a constant prayer, that Australia Felix, so blessed in natural gifts, should ever in her social labors, present a picture redounding to the praise and beneficence of the Creator.

CHAPTER II.

LOCALITY. AREA. PHYSICAL ASPECT. SOIL AND CLIMATE.

AUSTRALIA FELIX, or more properly Port Phillip, such having been proclaimed its official designation, is situated on S.E. coast of New South Wales, between the 141st and 146th degree of east longitude. It is bounded by Bass' Straits to the southward, and the Crown Province of South Australia to the westward; the River Murray, in the 36th degree of south longitude forms its northern limit; and the Swampy River, in the 141st degree of east longitude, bounds it to the eastward.

The greatest extent of Australia Felix, from east to west, is two hundred and sixty miles; from north to south about one hundred and eighty. It covers a space of thirty thousand square miles, or twenty million of acres, being rather larger than Van Diemen's Land, and commands a navigable sea-coast of five hundred miles, in a continuous direction from east to west, including its numerous and extensive harbours, capes, headlands, and inlets.

Covering the major portion of that large south eastern abutment of the great continent of Australia, this delightful province possesses a physical aspect, which, in relation to its climate and soil, is of the most favorable description.

It is visited by all the rains which, rising in the Pacific Ocean, sweep across Van Diemen's Land, that part of Australia which runs most to the southward, and extend their influences so far as latitude 35° south.

The effect of these rains in the sister colony are an extreme and at times an injurious degree of humidity. In Australia Felix, commencing at 141° east, and proceeding eastward, these cause a grateful and cherishing moisture, which, congealing as they pass the stupendous belt of Alpine* mountains to the southward become developed in snow on the wide bleak plains of Maneroo.†

The skirt of this periodical body of rain, is dispensed in partial showers, on that part of the South Australian province which extends farthest to the southward; the higher region of that country, it is probable, sinking by gradual recessions into either the aridity of Sydney and Swan River, or the sultry exuberance of climes uncongenial to European labour.

The physical outline of the coast presents in various parts some singular features for observation and inquiry.

* The Australian Alps, so called by Hovell and Home, run parallel to the south coast, from long. 149 E., to the skirts of Maneroo.

† A tract of occupied pasture land in the angle formed by the eastern and southern coasts at Cape Howe, of considerable extent, generally void of timber and visited by snow in the month of June.

Around the deep expanse of Port Phillip and Western Port harbours, the country for many miles inland bears the appearance of having lately emerged from the action of water, the trace and form of the waves being plainly discernible. At Wilson's Promontory and Cape Shanck, the coast, although lofty and covered with trees, has evidently been at one time covered by the sea; the substance of the hills on shore is rock of precisely the same kind as the bare crags on the coast, both are remarkable for a singular roundness of shape at the crown; this on the rocks has been moulded by the action of water, which, wearing away the asperities, has left it rounded and smooth; the effect upon the hills, has, arguing by analogy, been wrought by the same agency.

Indeed, all evidences on this and the opposite shore, show that the straits between the two lands must have been formerly of far greater width than at present, the waters having contracted in the channel, and left the opposite coasts trending towards each other. Even at those points where the coast presents a bolder and more lofty outline, as at Portland Bay, the presence of fossils and beds of shells mark the recent departure of the sea. At Western Port and Port Phillip, where cliffs are found, these usually consist of clayey breccia rocks, and indurated clay.

In every portion of Australia which borders upon the sea, salt lagoons are to be met with, occasionally so far as ten miles inland, which contain water and vegetable matter in every respect similar to that of the ocean, which laves the immediately adjacent shore.

In Australia Felix, which contains a large proportion of comparatively level land, salt lakes of an immense size are discovered, more than forty or fifty miles from the straits, which, having no visible communications with the sea, appear to be deposits of the ocean, in its retrogression from the face of the land.

So many theories have been published by the learned and unlearned, upon the geological formation of this vast continent, that it must appear at once presumptuous in the writer to offer another. Nevertheless, he cannot refrain advancing, that when the foregoing circumstances are added to the facts, that the general formation of the country is of the most primitive order, in which basaltic matter predominates, that the soil is not of a vegetable mould, but consists of decomposed rock, and that the animals are all of the marsupial order, it indicates that this vast tract of land has been recently thrown up by volcanic action from the waters.

If these premises be admitted, the existence of a great inland sea will not appear so hypothetical as formerly, for by the natural process of volcanic operations, a vast basin or crater would hold a central situation, in which the sea would as naturally retain a permanent lodgment.

The soil throughout this group of colonies is commonly considered of the finest quality, where possessed of the richest pasture. This, if it be a sound criterion, will indubitably establish the superiority of Port Phillip in natural capabilities, the pastures of this truly luxuriant land having increased in abundance and fertility with the increase of flocks and herds; a ratio of supply to consumption

which continues the unceasing admiration of the oldest colonists. Of its productive agricultural capabilities, every thing that is favorable may be recorded: the cultivation of the soil, however, has been hitherto confined to the industry of a small class, it will be improper, therefore, to pass too decided an opinion upon this subject, at the present early stage of provincial experience. It can, however, be safely stated, that corn of every description has been grown and found to answer excellently, yielding an average of forty bushels to the acre, from soil to which no stimulants had ever been applied.

Around Melbourne several nursery gardens are now in an admirable state of progression; the specimens of English fruits which have been introduced both by seeds and cuttings, having borne in a space of time incredibly short.

Tobacco, since the earliest settlement of the province, has been cultivated with the greatest success by squatters, at a distance from town, in quantities sufficient to supply their ordinary demands for *sheep dressing*.

All the culinary vegetables and herbs which are to be found in the English kitchen garden, are produced in the greatest abundance, and almost without cessation, the whole year round.

The vine has been successfully cultivated at Western Port, and in the district of Geelong the mulberry is discovered to be so prolific and speedy of growth, as to give rise to the most glowing anticipations of silk exports, before half a century shall have passed.

The natural fruits are neither numerous nor peculiar for their flavor; but it is generally observed, that the wild berries of Australia Felix are pleasanter and more luscious than those of New South Wales generally. The vegetable root called *Mernong* by the natives, somewhat similar to a parsnip in taste and appearance, is said to be indicative of good soil; it is every where found in the greatest abundance. As it will not, however, prove of any service to the reader to point out these natural productions by a more particular description, the writer may pass on to another and more interesting section of this subject. In examining the geological properties of the soil, the strata which are displayed both in the outline of the coast, and at different points open to observation in the interior, serve to substantiate the theory before suggested by the writer, of the formation of Australia.

The various strata which compose the carboniferous order, including shale or indurated clay, sandstone, limestone, and coal, constitute its chief features; and it is through these beds that the primary unstratified rocks, granite, and trap, invariably protrude.

Iron stone abounds in every part of the district, and is usually seen in the shape of pebbles strewed on flat areas of ground. Surveyor Hoddle, in his dispatches to the colonial government, states that seventy five per cent of this stone consisted of iron ore, and so powerful was its effect upon the instruments of the surveyors, as to render it necessary to sell the sections of land at a certain number of acres, *more or less*, it having been found impossible in some situations to obtain correct measurements.

The formation we have noticed of limestone and coal, in proximity to iron ore, leads to a very interesting train of reflection, for although the alluvial surface of strata in the transition series, is unfavorable to extensive and varied operations in agriculture; yet the means which lie within our grasp, of securing the power of steam, by the use of iron and coal, indicate the foundation of future ascendancy in manufactures and mechanics.

Quarries of hard sandstone and granite, are frequent near Melbourne. From the great price of labour the material is seldom wrought, but is commonly used in the rough state for buildings requiring durability and strength.

Limestone of a very good description is quarried at Nepean Point, one of the heads of Port Phillip harbour. Lime of a finer quality is manufactured from oyster and cockle shells, beds of which are met with in most of the rivers and bays of Port Phillip, and is used as stucco on the outside of houses, walls, and columns.

Surveyor Stapylton notes in one of his field books the existence of a hill of marble, situate in the Mount Macedon range.

Seams of coal abound throughout the coast, and at Western Port it has been proposed by the steam navigation company of the province to sink a shaft for the attainment of this invaluable mineral.

In the bed of the River Plenty large quantities of sand, chiefly consisting of mica, were gathered, in which some grains of gold dust were said to have been discovered. The rivulets Merri and Darebin, in the district of Melbourne, are possessed of water strongly impregnated with aluminous matter.

By the superficial survey which has been taken of the country, it appears highly probable that several varieties of valuable mineral and stone productions exist, and may hereafter be turned to a profitable account.

We may close these scanty remarks upon the geology and mineralogy of Australia Felix, by inserting some notes upon the geological formation of the coast near Cape Otway, formerly forwarded to us by our esteemed and talented friend, Dr. Thomson, of Geelong:—

“The rocks on the sea coast are of a sandstone formation, and present in some places cliffs one hundred feet perpendicular, the only peculiarity being an immense number of granite pebbles scattered throughout the sandstone like plums in a pudding, thus forming a common subject for the geologist to speculate upon. Coal, situate with its characteristic vegetation, abounded in the cliffs; the magnetic bearings of the coal were east and west, a fine transverse vein running through them. * * * *

* * * * About ten miles to the west of Cape Otway, there is a remarkable cave, large enough to hold some hundred men, with a beautiful crystalized pendulous substance hanging from its centre, in the shape of a splendid chandelier, which has been formed by the continual dropping of water through its ceiling for years past.”

The climate of Australia Felix, from the experience of four years, displays the most happy medium between the oppressive heat ex-

perienced in the northern districts of New South Wales, Western Australia, and South Australia, and the chill and humid atmosphere of Van Diemen's Land. The only circumstance which detracts from its merit in the eyes of the newly arrived immigrant, is, that from its abundance of moisture, it approaches too nearly the climate of the latter colony; this, however, is a fault admitted by the Australian agriculturist, and one that promises for this province an exception from those droughts which so frequently distress other portions of the continent.

Martin, in writing of the heat of New South Wales, observes, "The rise of the mercury in the thermometer, does not indicate the effect of the weather on the animal frame; the *humidity* of the atmosphere is of far more importance in this respect, for I have felt a much greater degree of oppression in Calcutta, with the thermometer at 80°, and the atmosphere surcharged with moisture, than in New South Wales when the mercury was at 125, and the air of a parching driness. Indeed in the latter country I have ridden fifty miles a day with but slight fatigue, while under the temperature of Bengal I found the slightest motion exhausting."

With regard to that period which is in Australia Felix conventionally termed winter, the frequent rains impart an air of chillness and murkiness, which to ladies and others leading a sedentary life, is productive of cold, and rheumatic complaints. These results, however, which are caused alike by the rough winds of early spring, are felt more by these classes, from the imperfect structure of the dwelling houses in general, than by those to whom actual exposure to the inclemencies of the weather is a common occurrence.

The weather at some seasons of the year is as tempestuous as in Great Britain; it is seldom known, however, to have any other effect upon the human constitution, than that of temporary inconvenience. The writer, at a time when he had scarcely recovered from a general debility of frame and spirits, brought on by a residence in India, performed a journey through the interior, and slept for six weeks continually in the bush, without a tent, a blanket his only protection from the rain of Heaven and the moisture of earth, yet to that period he ascribes the complete restoration of his bodily and mental strength.

It is rather a singular circumstance, that the herbage of Van Diemen's Land, with all its overplus of rain, should at the first approach of summer, become seared and innutritious; whereas, in Australia Felix, the pasture retains its freshness of color, and sweetness of taste, nearly the whole year round; this has been accounted for by the heavy dews which rise at night from all bodies of water, and refresh the surface of the ground.

A line of hills running parallel to the sea, at an average distance of forty miles, and distinguished as the Coast Range, appears to have a considerable effect upon the climate, rain having seldom visited the country beyond so abundantly as that within. In the western division of the province, including the districts of Geelong and Portland Bay, this range occupies a position considerably more in the interior than at the port of Port Phillip—there, in conse-

quence, the influence of the periodical rain is wider and more beneficial; a finer expanse also of fine green pastoral and agricultural land has been discovered and rendered available.

Those northerly winds which in the summer season are distinguished as the "hot winds," are far less frequent and injurious at Port Phillip than elsewhere; the number of these were calculated by a gentleman accustomed to keep a meteorological table, never to have exceeded one in each month during the course of the summer, their duration being rarely prolonged beyond a few hours in each day. So rapid is the process of vegetation, thanks to the genial nature of the climate, that the farmer can easily house his crops before the commencement of the hot winds. Vegetables of the larger size are frequently cut off by the simoon-like breath of these northerly currents of air, but in general the garden, with all its produce, suffers comparatively little.

The winter months are cold and disagreeable to residents in town, but expansive and strengthening to the denizens of the bush.

The spring is marked by sudden variations.

The summer heat is often gratefully relieved by refreshing showers.

The autumnal months, including February, March, April, and May, are of the blandest and most pleasant weather; cool winds, Italian skies, gentle rains (at night), and a bright clear atmosphere, impart a spirit of strength and activity to the inhabitants, which is not surpassed by any country in the world.

The designations given to the seasons in England, have been made use of by the writer, as those most easily to be understood, but in reality it would be extremely difficult to apportion the seasons in Australia Felix, by the duration of the English months, one quarter of the year often usurping the characteristics of another, so as to place the experience of the eldest at fault.

A few observations in this place, upon the animal and vegetable kingdom of Australia Felix, will not be inappropriate.

The writer, wanting in the requisite knowledge, cannot pretend to class the various animals, birds, reptiles, insects, and fishes, in their scientific order, but from enquiry at the hands of the more learned, is enabled to state, that the individual species forming the animal kingdom of the province, are, with the exception of a few lately discovered varieties, the same as those common to New South Wales.

The jerboa, an animal of the marsupial order, and some beautiful varieties of the genus *psittacus* in birds, were found by Major Mitchell to be peculiar to Australia Felix.

The most familiar animals are the different species of the kangaroo and opossum tribes; the wambut, a kind of badger which burrows deep in the ground; a species of sloth, unnamed, which evinces a most extraordinary predilection for fur, and will hug a cat to death; the devil and opossum hyæna, formerly supposed to be peculiar to Van Diemen's Land; and the native dog. The *ornithorynchus paradoxus*, or platypus, is frequent in the rivers Yarra Yarra and Glenelg, and a species of wild cat prowls

in the neighbourhood of civilization, and is most destructive to poultry.

For a more particular description of these, the reader is referred to Montgomery Martin's very comprehensive work on the Australasian colonies.

Thousands of parrots, paroquets, and cockatoos, of the most brilliant plumage, swarm in the forests of Port Phillip.

Pigeons, doves, and wild turkey, or native bustard, in the wood, snipes in the marsh, and quail in the native meadows, afford a wide field of enjoyment to the sportsman.

The spur-winged plover, with its plaintive cry, the native companion a gigantic species of crane, and the stately emu, dwell in the open plains.

Eagles and hawks of great size and destructive powers, reign in the forests or pursue the track of the herdsman, to prey upon the deserted carrion.

At the mouth of rivers, and on the sea-coast, pelicans abound, in company with black swans and musk ducks.

Wild duck of two kinds, the water and wood duck, breed in the interior, where water either stagnant or running is at hand. Some species of the feathered tribe, from their singular natural characteristics, are possessed of greater interest to the inhabitants of Australia, and will be worthy, therefore, of more particular notice.

There are three kinds of magpies, of which one is very similar to the English magpie, except that the black and white part of the plumage is severally transposed, it has a sweet flute-like note, loud, full, and clear, and is the most common singing bird in the colony.

The lyre pheasant, from its frequenting solitary mountainous parts of the country, is shy and difficult of access, but is obtainable from those natives who are skilful in watching, and the use of fire-arms; this bird takes its name from the singular formation of its tail, of which the two outer feathers are very broad, and turn towards each other with a volute-shaped extremity, those in the middle possessing a central stamen, which throws out on either side a number of single fibres; these represent the strings of the instrument; the bird itself is not at all remarkable for either beauty of shape or colour.

The laughing jack-ass, a species of butcher bird, is an uncouth looking creature, of an ashen-brown colour, with a strong black bill, from which issue notes of a discordant fiendish laughter; it ought however to be protected by the settler, from its habit of destroying snakes and reptiles.

The coach-whip derives its name from its note, a slow clear whistle, followed by a sharp jerking noise like the crack of a whip.

The bell-bird, a small brown creature with yellow legs and bill, has a clear tinkling note, and is always indicative of the proximity of water, a circumstance which the inexperienced bushman should bear in mind.

The carrion crow is larger than the British variety, and has a croak more like a raven, in the utterance of which it swells out its throat to the size of a large egg.

A species of the suctorial genus, a small bird that feeds upon the contents of flowers, is provided, in place of a tongue, with an organ of taste, split into a number of fibres like a small broom.

There is a large owl which exerts its vocal abilities throughout the night, while roaming in quest of food, and has a hoarse note like a cuckoo *with a cold*.

Several sorts of larks harmonise with their desultory song, the ceaseless chattering and chirping of the feathered creation, during the spring-tide; one species has here, if not elsewhere, a well-supported song, which is little inferior to the musical discourse of its British namesake.

The reptiles of the province consist of snakes, guanas, lizards, and a species of water-tortoise caught in the river Goulburn, said to be by the natives a delicious article of food. The writer has never known an instance of any person suffering from the bite of a snake, and cannot therefore state what degree of virulence these may be possessed of; the most abundant are two varieties of a brown and black colour, which in the neighbourhood of Sydney are extremely dangerous. The writer on one occasion, when riding through the bush, saw a green coloured object lying across the road, exactly like a piece of twisted wattle stick; on a nearer approach it darted away in the shape of a bright green snake, nearly five feet long. As this seems, however, to have proved a singular specimen, the writer is willing to admit the possibility of deception as to colour, arising from the glance of the sunlight on the reptile's skin, as it passed him like a flash of lightning in the long green grass.

He was also shewn by the Rev. Mr. Waterfield, of Melbourne, in whose possession it then remained, a small snake, not exceeding a foot in length, of the most beautiful structure, and which having been dead about forty-eight hours, retained a surpassing brilliancy of colour.

Snakes are frequently met with in the hot season, mostly about rocky spaces covered with tangled brushwood; these seem, however, to be more than ordinarily fearful of the presence of man. Many have been known to spring up between the legs of a person walking, but vanish without the slightest sign of hostility.

The lizards, of various sizes and colours, are considered perfectly harmless, with the exception of the puff lizard, from which, however, no actual case of injury received has ever come under the writer's knowledge.

The frogs of this land, remarkable for their green and yellow hue, are very numerous in marshes and rivers, and have a croak singularly loud and intonated.

Centipedes inhabit dry fallen trees, and are usually seen when disturbed by the removal of their place of refuge to a blazing bush fire.

The insects of this region, are as countless in their habits as in colour and shape. Beetles with their green and golden wings; flying insects with their horny encasements; spiders of extraordinary construction and habits; ants of the most formidable size and

means of defence; bees, flies, locusts, and mosquitoes, present the most interesting scope for research to the curious and enthusiastic in entomology.

In the month of March a peculiar kind of fly becomes exceedingly numerous and troublesome. In appearance it is not unlike the English gad-fly; in its ravenous predilection, however, for blood, it is far more disgusting—neither man nor beast is safe from its attacks. Its sting is not productive of more than a momentary sensation of pain, but from its repeated and renewed system of annoyance, it is looked upon as an annual pest. This fly settles on any exposed portion of the body, and inserting from its mouth a sharp-pointed tubular weapon, after the manner of the mosquito, it sucks the vital fluid with the rapacity of a vampire. Anomalous as it may appear, it is an indubitable fact, that this insect (March fly) is possessed of an internal bag, wherein it secretes a fluid, which in flavor and appearance is *pure honey*!

Of fish—the black and sperm whale abound on the coast, and penetrate the more open harbours; their presence has called into existence whaling establishments at Port Fairy and Portland Bay. Another will be early established in Port Phillip, where black whales are frequently seen and chased.

In this harbour many curious and unknown species of the finny tribe have been caught and exhibited. Beds of mud oysters form extensive fishing grounds in the bay; bream, schnapper, shrimps, and a variety of salt-water fish, contribute to the luxuries of Melbourne, while the eel and scaleless black-fish, with a delicate species of smelt, mountain trout, and cod, denizen the fresh-water streams of the neighbouring country.

To render this section of the work complete, it might not appear inappropriate to add a few remarks upon the vegetable kingdom of Australia Felix. Here, however, the author is again unable to impart any new points of knowledge on so important a subject, the reader, therefore, must be content with a reference to works of a more ambitious cast. The information to be gleaned from the various writers upon the botany of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, is at best a scanty specimen of the field of knowledge yet to be reaped. When indeed it is considered that the discovery of trees composed of valuable wood, or of plants possessing rare and secret qualities, might add largely to our export commodities, it must be lamented that so little has been done towards achieving one of the most requisite kinds of knowledge, connected with the settlement of a new country. Of our colonial botanists, Cunningham, the most active and enthusiastic, was unfortunately lost in the expedition to which he was attached.* Unfavorable circumstances withdrew other gentlemen from the sphere of their utility, and left the inhabitants in a state of ignorance, the more unfortunate because so unanimously attended with the desire of removal. The researches of the scientific so far as these

* He was lost on the Bogan River, when a companion of Major Mitchell's first expedition to the north westward.

extended, were confined to the older districts of New South Wales. In the province of Australia Felix, which in the bloom and verdure of its plains and forests holds out the greatest temptations to pleasing inquiry, no projects have been set on foot either by the government or the enterprise of the learned, to acquire additional information. Major Mitchell, to whom belongs the honor of first opening the natural treasures of this region, and forming a path for the innumerable followers who have taken advantage of his skill and spirit, to lay the pastoral, agricultural, commercial, and social foundation of a republic, exerted all his talents and general information to adorn the grand object of his journey, by acquisitions in natural history, and enrich the museums of literature, by descriptions and specimens of strange animals and rare plants. But in pursuit of his main discovery, an emporium for the collected energies of a nation, few or no diversions could be made in search of other and more minute objects. This want of knowledge is continued during the first years of a settlement, by the total occupation of men's time and actions, in the pressing cares and calls of an Australian life. The gradual introduction of luxuries, the increased facilities of communication with the western world, the importation of laboring classes, and the acquisition of extended appliances and means, will enable us to dispel this intellectual stagnation, and give a stimulant to the mind desirous of information, which may lead to grand discoveries and important results.

The writer may be permitted, while warming with the expanding nature of his topic, to incite the minds of those of his readers, whose intellectual powers possess all the activity and enthusiasm of youth, to a more extended and general inquiry into the objects of nature around them, to seek into the qualities and capabilities of the various trees which are most familiar to their sight, to examine their productions, whether these exude the resinous gums so precious in the East, or yield the manna which forms a valuable ingredient in the pharmacopoeia of the physician. To them, when thus thrown upon their own resources, amid the monotony of a wild bush life, will appear in its brightest light, the value of botanical knowledge, and if to that be added an insight into the sciences of mineralogy, geology, and chemistry, with the less abstruse pursuits of entomology and ornithology, the educated colonist may not only increase his own store of knowledge, but be the means of opening fresh resources of wealth, to the ingenuity and industry of his operative countrymen.

To return to the vegetable kingdom of this fertile and fruitful region, it only remains in the power of the writer to refer to the more copious and extended works of Dr. Ross, Dr. Lang, Martin, Cunningham, Breton, M'Arthur, and other authors, whose greater learning and leisure have been devoted to the cause of Australian advancement.

A few general remarks, however, shall be offered, with a view to strengthen the claim made throughout this brief and hasty memoir of the natural superiorities of Port Phillip. The comparison which renders itself the most striking to a visitor from the neighbouring

colonies, is the redundance and richness of our forest foliage. In Van Diemen's Land the trees add only to the angular and ungainly forms of their trunks and limbs, a scanty adornment of leaves, small and uninteresting in size and shape, and sombre in their hue, while the more graceful mimosa, and the flowering species of the acacia, which abound in our districts, are thinly scattered and of a poorer growth. Every description of tree which in the older colonies has been turned to domestic purposes, is to be met with here in the finest state of naturalization; these yield abundant materials for house and ship building, for fencing, planking, and for the purposes of the wheelwright, the carpenter, and the cabinet-maker. Cedar, however, and pine, have hitherto been found in small quantities and scattered positions, a fact to be regretted but not repined at, when the colony has within a few days sail of its shores, the beautiful islands of Tasmania and New Zealand, rich in these valuable productions. When we add that the climate and soil have shewn their properties to be highly favorable to the introduction and growth, both of tropical and British fruit and timber trees, that the orange, the walnut, the olive, and the myrtle grace our gardens, in conjunction with the more humble peach, cherry, and pear, that the pride of old England, her own indomitable oak, her ancestral elm, and her willow, dear to hallowed and departed memory, acknowledge the kindly influence of the country, we have made, we suspect, a more lasting and interesting impression upon the mind of the intending adventurer, than a volume on the subject of colonial vegetation.

CHAPTER III.

GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY.

NEXT to the early history, and those subjects treated of in the foregoing chapter, the geography of Australia Felix, its ports, bays, and rivers, with a description of its local divisions, towns, and available lands, will stand pre-eminent in general interest with the reader.

On entering upon this part of the subject, it should be stated that a view has been had to render the descriptions subservient rather to the information required by an immigrant, whether he turn his attention to sheep or agriculture, than to the exact delineations adhered to in geographical writings. It would indeed be impossible to give a more definitely statistical view, where as yet few territorial or municipal divisions have been formed, either natural or artificial.

A few miles to the westward of Yass runs an imaginary line, known as the boundary of New South Wales. Beyond this the settlers who sought for unoccupied pasturage, received the generic appellation of "squatters." Few, however, previous to the formation of Major Mitchell's high road through the vast western territory, had ventured to any distance. The settlement of Port Phillip from Van Diemen's Land, swelled by the increase of government officers, and other adventurers from Sydney, gave a spur to the minds of the older colonists. They hastened to follow up the tracks of the explorer, driving, like the patriarchs of old, their flocks and herds before them, some with a view of transferring their whole interest to the new country, others only to dispose of their property to the speculative amongst the already assembled residents. From the boundary of the old colony then might be reckoned the commencement of Australia Felix, but that thence westward to the river Hume, the wool-growers in possession of the intermediate country still dispatch the produce of their flocks to Sydney. The Hume, in consequence, must be considered as constituting the legitimate boundary of this flourishing province; Port Phillip as the seaport, where the commerce of the country is centred, and immigration is immediately attracted, will claim to be the nucleus of observation.

The general appearance of Australia Felix, in that part of it which lies westward of Port Phillip, is a continuation of extensive plains, diversified by ranges of moderate altitude, and bearing in every certain proportion of square miles a grand leading feature, such as that formed by the Grampians, subdivisions of which are again peculiarly marked by the existence of numerous lakes, salt and fresh, by belts of magnificent forest land, or pasture and forest, river and vale alternately, but in all parts characterized by a ver-

dant and accessible expanse, nowhere else to be obtained. In the other portion which lies eastward, and was traversed by Messrs. Hovell and Hume, a continuity of mountainous scenery appears to be most prevalent. The loftiest mountains which have been yet discovered on the continent, here raise their snow-clad pinnacles to the Heavens; the vallies and open country at the bases of these appear by their accounts to be in a sultry climate, but possessed of abundance of natural herbage, and intersected by numerous streams. To the northward of the line upon which they travelled through this land, the region extending back to the Hume seems to present a marshy surface, occasioned probably by the flow of such large bodies of water throughout its soil, not however without spaces of country in various directions, well fitted for pasture or grazing ground, for sheep or cattle.

In many situations such as those, immediately contiguous to Port Phillip, Western Port, Portland Bay, and a large tract southward and westward of the Grampains, on the rivers Wannon and Glenelg, the most beautiful park-like scenery presents itself to the eye; the trees, unlike those of New South Wales or Van Diemen's Land, have a fresh green foliage; the natural grass rivals the sward of Old England, and the rivers and streams, shaded by mimosa of the most beautiful growth, are peculiar in their every appearance to Australia Felix. In common with other vast portions of uncultivated uninhabited land, tracts of barren soil, destitute of water, of cold stern ranges of hills covered with immense but utterly unavailable timber, rendered impassable by stunted and matted underwood, are to be found even on this favored portion of Australia; but its general characteristics of fertility, including richness of soil and abundance of pasture, place it far above the older districts, in those advantages which immigrants naturally seek for.

In tracing its line of coast, from the line of boundary in longitude 146° , westward to the Glenelg, the bays, ports, and roadsteads, that may be distinguished, are numerous, capacious, and safe. The principal of these are Port Western, Port Phillip, and Portland Bay, to which may be added some few of minor import, as Discovery Bay, Port Fairy, Corner Inlet, Sealer's Cove, &c.

Port Western, situate in longitude $145^{\circ}30'$, and latitude $38^{\circ}15'$, is a fine open expanse of water, divided into an eastern and western arm by Phillip Island, a green fertile hummock, which occupies a central position in the principal opening. Its extreme breadth is thirty miles, its depth forty, and its circumference exceeding one hundred; it is in general free from rocks and shoals, and has good anchorage in various parts. It is supplied with fresh water by Bass' River to the eastward, and a stream running from the mountains into the western arm to the northward and westward; the land around is beautifully laid, lightly timbered, and grows an abundance of grass and natural herbage; it possesses cattle pastures of great extent, abounds in all the native animals and wild fowl, and is blessed with continued moisture. Coals and minerals have been found in its vicinity, and the soil, if we may judge by actual vegetable productions, is of the most fertile

description. The tobacco plant and the vine have been tried and found to answer beyond all expectation. Timber of an excellent description, for all the purposes of house and ship-building, is available in every direction, and the climate partakes of that "Ionian blandness," which so especially characterizes the south-eastern division of the Australian continent.

While the restless and active inhabitants of the province are spreading themselves with their flocks and herds over every portion of its vast and fertile pastures—while the squatters as that wandering class of the population whose business is connected with the rearing of stock and the production of wool are generally termed, are taking up their positions at Portland Bay and the Lake Country to the westward, around Mount Macedon, the heads of the Plenty and the Goulburn or Bayanga to the northward and eastward, and even stretching out to the little frequented parts on the Loddon and the banks of the great river, the Murray—the wide pastures, the timber bearing shores, the alluvial flats, the lands rich in minerals of Western Port, appear to be entirely neglected. The chain of settlers which stretches at long intervals coastwise to Cape Schank, the agricultural establishments of Messrs. Massey and Anderson, and the intentions of an enterprising fellow-citizen, Mr. Manton, to work the coal mines of the district, so soon as a charter can be obtained from the colonial government, can hardly be cited as a contradiction of the writer's charge against the colonists for their indifference to the natural capabilities of this district; the great preference shewn to other tracts or districts, to the neglect of Western Port, at the same time that this really possesses undeniable although untried advantages, remains unchanged. Not only, however, is the country which lying around this port is included in the Province, to be considered as legitimately connected with the harbour and its export facilities, but all that region which was lately discovered and explored by Count Strelenski and his companions, must in the event of its occupation belong by natural laws to the districts of Western Port, for notwithstanding the circumstance of its position beyond the provincial boundary in longitude 146° E., yet the wool of its stock-holders, and the agricultural produce of its farmers, must find its way to any town that may be established there for purposes of exportation, in the same manner that its population must consider themselves under the protection, and therefore seek redress for their grievances from the judicial executive of that district. But of this new country some further observations will be presently introduced. To return therefore to Western Port itself, which would, in the case of a separation between this free province and the penal territory of New South Wales, be indisputably involved with the interests geographical and commercial of Australia Felix; it will strengthen the writer's unsupported opinions to annex an account relative to this port, the advantages of which he is now discussing, taken from a Van Diemen's Land paper, published so far back as 1826. The reader will recollect that the subsequent attempt of the local government in 1827 to colonize its shores, with the cause

of its failure, having already been satisfactorily accounted for, must not be held as in any way subversive of his flattering or rather favorable view of its natural position. The following description is copied from Cunningham's "Two Years in New South Wales:"—

"Western Port on the south coast of New Holland, appears to have been so called from its situation to this island, being nearly two hundred miles to the N. N. W. of Port Dalrymple. From that Port across the straits of Wilson's Promontory, is about one hundred and twenty miles. The peninsula, of which this last forms the extremity, is the most southern land of New South Wales, and is connected to the main by an isthmus formed by an inlet of the sea on the east, and the mouth of a river on the west. From this point to Western Port the coast stretches along in a westerly direction round Cape Liptrap, about sixty or seventy miles, bounding an extent of country described as the finest ever beheld, and reaching apparently about forty miles to the foot of a very lofty range of mountains running parallel with the coast. In parts it resembles the park of a country seat in England, the trees standing in picturesque groups to ornament the landscape. The timber is mostly the same as in this island, but some of the species in that genial climate attain greater size and beauty. In other parts the eye roams over tracts of meadow land, waving with a heavy crop of grass, which being annually burned down by the natives, is reproduced every season. In these situations large farms might be cultivated without a tree to interrupt the plough. Various fresh-water lagoons lie scattered on the surface, and about eight miles up the Western river, a branch-stream intersects it. A second tributary stream falls by a cascade into this latter about five or six miles up, navigable by small vessels, where there is an eligible situation for a town. The mouth of the port is about thirty miles wide. An island called Phillip's Island occupies the centre, stretching about thirteen miles, leaving an entrance at each extremity. From the headland of the eastern main, a reef runs toward the island, leaving a narrow entrance for ships, but hazardous to one unacquainted with the passage. The western entrance is, however, safe and commodious for vessels of any burden. The best course is to keep within half a mile of the island on the starboard side, which has a sandy beach, called Grant's Rock, at the western extremity. This is the more necessary, as a reef runs out some distance from the main.

"About four or five miles up, is a sand-pit, and having rounded the island, an immense space of water opens to view, and another island of equal extent is seen about six miles higher up. At ebb tide, a great many shoals appear, or muddy banks covered with swans, which live on a delicate grass growing on the flats. They lay their eggs on the sand-banks, which are gathered in great numbers, and are by no means unpalatable. The sealers usually anchor about twelve miles up; five miles beyond is a point of fuller's earth. Proceeding up the western channel, and opposite the second island, is another large tributary stream, flowing through a level country of fine pasture land, lightly wooded, and formed into a peninsula by Port Phillip, about fifteen or twenty miles farther to the west. Mr. Smith met with a fine lagoon in the centre of this tract while hunting kangaroos, which he found very numerous. Both the islands consist of good land, but the upper one is rather thickly wooded. The vegetable mould rests on stratum of clay of fuller's earth, and appears to be the deposit which this valuable river (as yet but partially explored) has washed down from the higher grounds. The natural produce of hay is astonishing, and various productions would, independent of agriculture, be a source of profit to settlers. The seal and swan skins are no trifling item, to which we may add the wattle bark, which is every where abundant, to say nothing of the gum which exudes from it. A species of tea tree differing from that in this island is common. The infusion of its leaves affords a most excellent beaverage, and its bark, like that of birch, being a white peeling texture, and possessing a greater quantity of tannin than even the wattle, would no doubt, from its absence of colour, be highly prized by the London curriers. A species of *lignumvitae* is also indigenous there. Fish in the highest perfection swarm among the rocks; some of

the mullet and salmon, when smoke dried, are nothing inferior to the haddock of East Scotland. Mr. Smith proceeded about fifteen miles beyond the upper island, where the channel of the main stream began to diverge into various other small streams branching through the interior."

Attractive as this picture has been rendered by the enumeration of so many and such various natural advantages and resources, by objects that appear to present themselves expressly to invite the industry of an agricultural community, the enterprise of a commercial people, it must in justice be acknowledged that the experience of later colonists has tended rather to increase than diminish the eligibilities of its soil, climate, and position; the only detraction indeed which can be made from the recited description is the fact, that no navigable stream has been hitherto discovered, and the probability that considerable difficulty will be experienced in choosing the locality of a town, on account of the numerous shoals that intersect the upper portion of the harbour. On the other side, however, it may be mentioned that the land in the neighbourhood can be brought into the highest state of cultivation and productiveness with great ease and little expense. There are farmers even in the fertile vicinity of Melbourne, who, when informed that two bullocks are at Western Port sufficient for ploughing and all the purposes of husbandry, whereas two teams of six animals each can hardly complete the season on their own estates, will readily perceive the accuracy of the writer's opinions.

The abundance of that invaluable mineral, coal, and the demand for it which will shortly be made, both in regard to domestic purposes and the use of the several steamers to be immediately introduced into the provincial trade, will prove the main stay of this important district. It is at present under the consideration of Government to grant leases of such portions as may hold out any prospects to a Mining Company, and at the same period to form a settlement, by disposing of the land in portions of about ten acres with a view to submit its agricultural capabilities to the fullest and closest trials, by encouraging the exertions of a concentrated population in its culture.

Returning to the promised account of "Gipps' Land," the splendid discovery of Count Strelenski, the reader is required to throw his eye along the map of Australia, and in tracing the shore between the eastern coast of the continent, and the harbour of Western Port, situate in the 145th degree of East longitude, he will observe, according to the most recent charts, that a line of mountains running parallel with Bass' Straits, and termed the Australian Alps, enclose a considerable space of country between their declivities and the southern coast, including, in the angle formed by Cape Howe, the district styled Maneroo Plains. This alpine chain, the position of which seems first to have been determined by Messrs. Hovell and Hume in their overland journey to Port Phillip, was supposed by the description of these gentlemen to exceed an average elevation of twelve thousand feet, some of the peaks attaining to the height of Mount Blanc in Europe. The general direction, however, of the range was all that had been ac-

curately ascertained when Count Strelenski, led by a spirit of discovery, surveyed the upper portions of the River Hume, or Murray, tracing it to its source in Lake Omio, in the heart of the Australian Alps, and following the course of the mountain range, ascended its highest summit. The noble traveller, who is a Polish refugee, hallowed this eminence by conferring on it the name of his country's patriot, "Kosciusko." In a long conversation which the writer held with Count Strelenski, upon the objects, the circumstances and results of his expedition, the scene from this elevation appears to have been equally comprehensive and magnificent, the traveller being able to look down on one hand upon Mount Aberdeen and Mount Butler, the prominences formerly descried and christened by Messrs. Hovell and Hume; on the other, upon a country of many hundred square miles stretching away to the sea coast and presenting to his delighted senses a field of easy yet important discovery. In the longitude of 148° E. a spur of the Alps renders the communication between Maneroo and Gipps' Land rugged and difficult, less so, however, than the route now usually pursued by the settlers to Sydney. "The appearance, observed the Count, of this portion of the country was as if it abounded in deep and frequent vallies, rendering the passage both difficult and tedious; an easier although longer route could at all events be taken by the sea coast, which avoiding the diverging branches of the range would carry the settlers and their produce either to Corner Inlet or to Western Port." From this meridian 148° E. the Count's party travelling westward crossed over a district named by them after the present Governor of New South Wales, and described in his own brief but forcible language as "having in an extent of five thousand square miles, upwards of two hundred and fifty miles of sea coast, two already known harbours, Corner Inlet and Western Port, beside those for small craft, which may probably exist where her waters disemboque, eight navigable rivers in addition to a navigable lake, and lagoons bisecting two hundred miles of her length, three thousand six hundred square miles of forest, plains, vallies, which in richness of soil, pasturage, and situation cannot be surpassed; two thousand square miles of a coast range capped with blue, green and black butt (colonial timber) of a most excellent quality, and embracing vallies large and deep, which hold out a fine prospect to the cattle breeder."

The principal river of this new and valuable acquisition to the province of Australia Felix (an acquisition by which a large portion of the wool exports of the remoter settlers on the Murrumbidgee and the Murray will be drawn from Sydney to Melbourne,) is the Thomson, which after a course of seventy miles discharges itself into a lake of considerable extent, supposed to have a navigable communication with the sea in longitude $147^{\circ} 50'$. Two other rivers, the Riley and the M'Arthur, also flow into this lake, or rather after an impetuous course from the mountains open into lagoons, and finally blend with the waters of Lake King.

Another important stream was traced for many miles in the

direction of Corner Inlet, a small but commodious harbour, much frequented by sealers, and lying in longitude $146^{\circ} 30'$. This river, the Latrobe, from its size and depth holds out great hopes of its proving suitable to inland navigation—a circumstance which, connected with its small but well sheltered outlet, will raise the advantages of this district in a commercial view to a very high standard, presenting facilities for the introduction of sheep by sea, which must in a great measure counterbalance the difficulty with which the land route to Western Port has been found to be attended.

The lake which has been already alluded to as the receptacle of three of the principal streams, was not so minutely surveyed as to insure a safe or secure communication with the sea; but on the northern shore, where Count Strelenski and his companions passed, it bore all the appearance of a deep navigable sheet of water fifteen miles in length, and as far as could be ascertained with a telescope no bar existed at that point where the lake disembogues by a broad sea channel into Bass' Straits; the three rivers already mentioned are connected to Lake King by lagoons, one of which being the termination of the Thomson, is twenty-two miles long, with a breadth of one hundred yards, has a slight rise and fall of tide, and consequently, with all the properties of a river, will extend the navigation of the country to a considerable distance inland. The whole mass of waters, indeed, collected at this point is fresh, deep, and for the most part, clear of timber. Among the important features of Gipps' Land the magnificent prairies called Barney Plains, from thirty to fifty miles in extent, surrounded with the most attractive scenery, and bordered by copious streams, cannot fail to command the attention of the traveller; neither can that tier of mountains the loftiest yet discovered on the continent, soaring in some places to the height of seven thousand feet, and veiling their heads in perpetual snows, be passed without demanding the tribute of the narrator, but as the jealousy of the Sydney Government with regard to the separation of Australia Felix arises in a great degree from the anticipated loss of land revenues, and as the new country possesses extensive and valuable material for replenishing the exhausted coffers of the Sidonians, it is more than probable that quick and successful as we may be in the occupation of its pastures, yet not a stiver will the provincialists ever enjoy of the expected proceeds—in which case, conscious that its proximity may cause more trouble than advantage to the district of Port Phillip, it must be left to provide for itself, while the reader accompanies the author over the ground of research marked out for examination in the commencement of their undertaking.

Port Phillip, which is the principal harbour of the province, equally on account of its size, safety, and position, holds nearly a central situation on the coast of Australia Felix, in the 144° E. longitude, and embraces an extent of eight hundred and seventy-five square miles of open water. From the narrow entrance of the port, not exceeding four miles, this harbour has all the appearance of a large inland lake or sea, to which resemblance its low sweeping

shores, green, undulating, and beautifully wooded, serve generally to contribute. Its breadth varies from twenty to sixty miles, and its depth from the heads to the innermost anchorage is equal to forty. From its expansive and sheltered character, it is capable of receiving and retaining in security the whole mercantile and military navy of Great Britain. The movement of so large a body of water, seeking egress by so confined an outlet, has naturally drifted banks of sand towards the mouth of the harbour. The shoals, however, which are thus formed, lie in one compact mass, and do not occupy more than a few square miles of the fair way navigation. Three or four distinct channels intersect the banks, containing a sufficient depth of water to admit the passage of the heaviest vessels, and when properly buoyed, will scarcely require the superintendence of a pilot to add to their original facilities. Beyond the shoals the harbour is wide, deep, and free of all obstructions. A vessel may stand across from side to side with no other guidance than that afforded by a "lead and look-out." The anchorage is immediately in front of a town established, and now favorably progressing, at the northern extremity of the harbour. Since a direct communication with England has been opened, and the number of foreign vessels has compatibly increased, the want of pilots, light houses, wharfs, signal stations, and port regulations, has been seriously felt. The appointment, however, of a harbour master, the erection of a light-house at Williams Town, with a small supply of buoys for the channels, has remedied in some degree these weighty drawbacks to its commercial status. His Honor the Superintendent, also fully alive to the importance of effecting these improvements, and upholding the character of the port, has made arrangements for the completion of a light-house on the eastern head of the bay, for an efficient pilot establishment,* a chain of communication by signals, a proper code of regulations, and the construction of the necessary wharfs. On the western side of the port, the bay opens into a long navigable arm which is commonly termed the inner harbour of Geelong. It runs nearly east and west, and contains like the outer bay an admirable anchorage at its furthest extremity. The cove of Koraio, forming the site of a township, lies rather on the northern shore, and is well sheltered from the prevailing winds. It is to be regretted that shoals similar to those already described extend across the entrance of the Geelong harbour; an eligible channel, however, has been here discovered, and successfully rendered subservient to the navigation of the Port. The bar, it appears, which cuts off or rather obstructs the immediate communication with the anchorage at Koraio is of so trifling a width, and of a nature so easily removable, that the inhabitants, led by their enterprising fellow-townsmen, Dr. Thomson, have offered to bear a moiety of the expense required to remove it on the condition that the local government defrays the

* For the information of strange navigators, it may be mentioned that three or four well-skilled individuals are now filling the posts of Acting Pilots, and whose appointments, it is expected, will be ratified in 1841.

other moiety, an arrangement that the writer has elsewhere strongly recommended to the Superintendent's approval.

The remarks which it may be necessary to make with regard to the natural resources and acquired position of the district surrounding the Port, and of the various settlements which have been formed on its coast, viz Melbourne, Geelong, and Williams Town, are reserved until a review of the interior be brought under the reader's consideration.

The sailing directions for the outer and inner harbour, and other nautical matters connected with the Port, will be found in the Appendix, where the insertion will answer every purpose of men interested in the subject, and prevent any obstruction to the continuation of the narrative.

Portland Bay is a good roadstead, partly open and partly sheltered, situated at the western end of a long open indentation of the coast, beginning at Cape Sir William Grant, and running eastward thirty miles. The high land which forms the prominence of Cape Nelson, gives shape and security in a great measure to this harbour. At that point where the coast is highest in its formation, the cliffs shelter a small cove, where a tolerable harbour might be formed by the construction of two piers. The anchorage at present used is safe, and protected from all winds except the E.S.E. It is on record however that a vessel rode out a gale from even this quarter. The water, continues Major Mitchell, from whose work the foregoing observations are gleaned, in this little bay, is in general smooth enough to admit of the landing of boats. This has been corroborated by the reports of vessels from Van Diemen's Land, which have with great facility and safety landed their cargoes of sheep and cattle on the beach. It appears that so early as the year 1833, Portland Bay was frequented by vessels from Van Diemen's Land, for the value of its fisheries. The first vessel which filled with oil from the whaling ground on the port, was the *Socrates*, the property of the Launceston Fishing Company, a mercantile house of Hobarton. Incited by the success of this venture, other ship-owners entered into the lucrative field of competition thus laid open to them, until year after year the fleet of whalers increased to the number of fourteen, which annually carry away from fifteen hundred to two thousand tons of oil in a single season. Mr. Henty, the industrious, enterprising, and fortunate settler, whose name and success are so intimately acquainted with the early history of this port, was led from the result of shrewd calculations, based upon personal observation and trustworthy reports, to form a whaling establishment on the coast. Obligated to provide for the necessities of his own charge, he was led to enter into cultivation to some extent. His farming operations have proved as successful as his other speculations, while the fortunate returns of a few seasons have enabled him to import cattle and sheep from Launceston. Thus of every natural resource, an incipient commerce has been created by the energy, it may be said, of a single individual, to whose benefit as well as of those who may follow in

his steps, it cannot fail early to conduce.* The station of this gentleman was visited by Major Mitchell, on his return from the Glenelg, the boundary of Australia Felix, in the year 1836. The favorable account which the traveller took home of its situation, climate, and natural products, drew a large body of influential gentlemen in the north of England to apply to the Secretary of State for a charter similar to that enjoyed by the South Australian Company, constituting Australia Felix a crown province, and establishing this bay the site of its principal town and port. From reasons of which the writer is unable to judge, the effort, although apparently well directed and supported, failed of attaining the object in contemplation. The minister apparently roused to a sense of its importance, by the very fact of such strenuous exertions having been made by private individuals living at a distance from the scene of enterprise, to secure its resources to themselves, forwarded immediately a despatch to his representative in New South Wales, directing that an officer of the Survey Department with a Magistrate of the Territory should be sent down to Portland Bay, under orders to report upon its eligibility for a settlement similar to that previously engrafted upon individual industry at Port Phillip.

Captain Fyans, the Police Magistrate of Geelong, and Assistant Surveyor Smythe were accordingly ordered down to execute the commission proposed by the Home Government. They took their departure from Port Phillip in May, 1839, and returned in August of the same year. Of this expedition and its result, the following observations may be found in the Port Phillip Gazette of that date:—"Portland Bay was made in our last number the subject of a slight paragraph, with a view of rendering a service to newly arrived immigrants, by directing their steps to the healthy and fertile pasture with which the surrounding country abounds. Mr. Henty, who has been established there for nearly five years, has formed a whaling station; a farm which by the abundance of its produce testifies to the fertility of the soil; and cattle and sheep stations in the immediate neighbourhood of the port. Several mercantile houses in Van Diemen's Land send their whaling vessels every season, and have never yet experienced anything but good success; it is evident, therefore, that Portland Bay is an admirable field for future colonists. Reports are prevalent that its harbour is unsafe: we have Major Mitchell's testimony to the contrary; indeed the fact of so many ships lying at anchor in its roadstead throughout the season without a single loss or accident having been incurred, is quite sufficient to refute the calumnies by which selfish minds endeavour to traduce the advantages of this territory. This author particularly remarks that the water in the harbour is always smooth enough to admit of the landing of boats; in corroboration of which may be mentioned the circumstance of the *Henry* having, in her last trip, landed a full cargo of sheep,

* It is gratifying to state that this Gentleman's exertions will, in some degree be requited by a grant of land, on the same terms as that of the Port Phillip Association here.

in a few hours, on the beach of this bay, where the anchorage itself is so good that it is on record a vessel rode out a gale of wind from the E.S.E., the quarter which is most open to the dangerous influences of the sea and sky. The account of Major Mitchell is happily verified by the report of Captain Fyans and Surveyor Smythe, who speak in raptures of its beauty and fertility, and pronounce it the finest site for a settlement throughout the colonies. The soil is described of the richest alluvial kind, its vegetable productions remarkable for their size and quality, the barley yielding for four years a continued crop, the timber as peculiar for both beauty and utility, and the climate as unrivalled. There is one spot on the shores of this bay spoken of as watered by a running stream, and having on it a spring sufficiently copious for the supply of the largest European town. The population, from a census taken by Captain Fyans, amounts to three hundred—when we mention this it does not require another word to support our opinions. We again advise all lately arrived immigrants to remove thither: a splendid tract of country westward of the Grampians, reaching to the valley of Nangeela on the junction of the Wannon and Glenelg lies open for location; the pastures are luxuriant, the water abundant.”

Port Fairy is a small and not very secure harbour, in longitude 142° E., and is chiefly valued as a whaling station; the bottom is generally rocky, the entrance wide and not calculated to shelter the anchorage; during the winter months, however, which is the calving season of the whales, the prevailing winds come off the land. Mr. Griffiths, of Van Diemen's Land, has a fishing station there said to be productive; sufficient good land exists in that neighbourhood to support a small settlement, but the sea coast in that neighbourhood is more barren, from the predominance of scrub and rock, than in any other portion of the Province.

Discovery Bay is a long open indentation of the coast, and affords no shelter to shipping beyond that of a mere roadstead, it stretches from Portland Bay eastward to the boundaries of the South Australian Province, and may become valuable to commerce if the Glenelg which discharges itself into the sea upon this coast, should prove in any way navigable for steamers.

Sealers Cove and Corner Inlet forming the eastern and western boundaries of Wilson's Promontory, can hardly be defined as appertaining to the district, they will form rather the seaports of Gipps' Land, unless that portion of the country as it ought, should be included in the boundaries of His Honor's government.

A small Bay or Cove opening under the shelter of Cape Otway, and which on one occasion served as a refuge for a French vessel of discovery during the difficult process of careening, concludes our summary of the provincial harbours.

We cannot close this description of the coast of Australia Felix and its various ports, without impressing upon the observation of the local government the policy of instituting both a marine and land survey of each of the harbours here enumerated, a task which will fall under the province of the Harbour Masters and District Sur-

veyors department respectively, with a view to the foundation of as many settlements as there may be eligible Ports. A chain of frequent and accessible harbours will thus be developed along the coast of Australia Felix, and a facility of intercommunication secured as well to coasting traders as to the inhabitants of the interior; numerous lines of carriage will conduct the wool or agricultural produce of the country to a near instead of a distant port, where a suitable species of vessels, or (what is of more importance to the country to foster,) colonial steamers will be ready to transport the goods either to Melbourne or the nearest Free Port, on its way for final shipment to England.

It is by no means an irrelevant feature in the natural commercial capabilities of the country, that each of these ports appears to form the nucleus of some valuable acquisition or rudiment of Trade and Wealth; Western Port abounds in coal; Port Phillip affords the finest pasturage; Port Fairy and Portland Bay are the resort of whalers, while each forms a separate and indispensable link in the chain of healthy, valuable, and commodious depots of Navigation and Commerce.

The Rivers of Australia Felix are numerous and well deserving of especial notice; the bodies of water which these contain are usually deeper and stronger than those of the older country. The Murray, which forms three parts of the natural eastern and northern boundaries of the Province, is probably the largest river in Australia; it is noted in contradistinction to the Lachlan and the Darling, rivers of New South Wales, for its continuous volume and rapidity. The rivers, indeed, are the chief and most interesting features of this beautiful country, for these are the reservoirs of Heaven's superabundant moisture which supply nutriment to the herbage, verdure to the trees, richness to the soil, and give support to the daily existence of its human and creature inhabitants; the invaluable aid also which rivers afford to commerce and inland navigation is to be considered among the principal attractions which this portion of our subject will have for the observant colonist. Among the rivers of the Province may be enumerated the Hume, Bayanga, Wimmera, Broken River, and the Wannon, in the interior; the Glenelg and Yarra Yarra, which empty themselves into the sea; there are also many secondary streams, such as the Crawford, Yarraine, Mackenzie, Norton, and Lodon, of the first or interterral rivers; the Fitzroy, Surry, Shaw, Bass, Barwon, and Weirabee, of the second or those which are tributary to the sea. The Hume takes its rise in the Australian Alps, at or near the position which Lake Omio occupies in these mountains; it was crossed at various times and various places by Sturt, Hovell and Hume, Mitchell, Hawdon and Strelenski, the last having discovered its sources, the first its place of confluence with the sea; this river pursues a general N.N.Wly course from its rise to its junction with the Murrumbidgee, at which point Captain Sturt launching a boat upon its waters and following the stream in a course nearly west, found it spreading into a large shallow lake in the province of South Australia.—

The Hume or Murray flows through ten degrees of longitude, and with its windings must water eight hundred miles of a rich and fertile country; in its passage through Australia Felix it maintains the character of a deep rapid river, exceeding at some points a breadth of four hundred yards, and as a channel of communication through so large a space of country will, at no distant period, prove a noble acquisition to a manufacturing as well as a pastoral and agricultural people.

The Bayanga, originally discovered by Mr. Hovell, and named after that enterprising traveller, is a tributary stream of the Hume, with which river it mingles its waters in longitude 143° E. latitude $35^{\circ} 19'$; it is supposed to have its origin among the snowy regions of the Alps, rising in a mountain not far from Western Port which forms the termination of that magnificent range; the stream of the Bayanga preserves, from the point where the great high road between Melbourne and Sydney intersects the river, a medium breadth of at least sixty or seventy yards down to its junction with the Hume: flowing through a district already well populated and daily receiving a large accession of inhabitants, it cannot but prove of eminent service in connecting the southern with the northern limits of the Province in that portion of Australia Felix lying eastward of Port Phillip; its course from Western Port to the Hume is nearly N.E., its length exceeding four hundred miles.

The Wimmera discovered and named by Major Mitchell in 1836, springs in the scattered range of the Pyrenees, and pursuing a course as nearly as may be judged N.W. for a distance of two hundred miles with all its windings, discharges itself into Lake Hindmarsh; this stream sluggish and in dry seasons stagnant and shallow, can never be rendered available to inland navigation; it presents, however, a character so strangely anomalous to our ideas of European Geography, for it rises from the coast, flows inland and spreads its contents into an internal lagoon, that it demands a more than nominal notice; it has two small tributaries, the M'Kenzie and Norton, which flow also from the southward, and join the Wimmera at various points of its course. Major Mitchell followed this river until finding it pursued, through a country becoming daily less attractive, a more inland course than agreed with the original projection of his route, he turned away towards the sea coast, and left the discovery of its singular termination to the enterprize of Mr. Eyre, who, in 1838, conceived the plan of reaching South Australia by continuing Major Mitchell's line of progress along the banks of the Wimmera. This traveller, however, after circumambulating the lake, was obliged, from the many difficulties the onward road presented, to abandon his intention.

The Yarraine and the Lodon, two tributary streams of the Hume, are supposed to originate in the hilly country of the interior, bordering upon the Pyrenees; each possesses all the indications natural to mountain streams, having at one time been discovered under the appearance of mere rivulets, at another with the swell and rush of a considerable river. The Yarraine, when crossed by Major

Mitchell, swept away in its impetuous torrent the bridge he had formed across its banks; when subsequently passed by Mr. Hawdon it was scarcely discernible in its gaping bed, but when again visited by Surveyor Smythe it had resumed the force and volume of its former character. The Lodon is neither so copiously supplied, nor does it possess such extended banks as the Yarraine; it remains in consequence for a much longer period in a sluggish state, but when first seen by the Surveyor-General it appears to have been a stream of no little importance. These rivers, including their tributaries, of which the largest is the Campaspee, rising at the foot of Mount Macedon, water a considerable tract of fertile country, and are so many lines of settlement and communication between the sea-coast and the Hume.

The Glenelg, the principal discovery of Major Mitchell in his expedition through Australia Felix, was met by him in latitude 37° , longitude $141^{\circ} 52'$; the stream was then flowing to the Eastward and Southward, deriving its waters apparently from the Grampians. It was crossed at this point from the westward, and the traveller following a south-by-east direction forded several minor streams running from the eastward to join the Glenelg. In latitude $37^{\circ} 30'$ the party again touched upon the river immediately after having passed the Wando, a considerable tributary from the country to the eastward. Twenty miles farther south they met and crossed the Wannon, which forms a junction with the main stream in latitude $37^{\circ} 40'$. Pursuing their downward route they reached a point where the Glenelg receives the Crawford. Here forming a *dépôt* for the waggons, &c., Major Mitchell, with a boat's crew, embarked on the stream, having there a uniform width of fifty yards, and followed the river to its outlet in the sea in latitude $38^{\circ} 2' 58''$ south. By this rapid description it would appear that the Glenelg follows an easterly course for probably seventy miles, that it then flows in a general southerly direction until within fifty or sixty miles of its confluence with the sea, where suddenly making a long reach to the westward it turns as abruptly to the eastward and empties itself at once into Discovery Bay. Its banks are described by Major Mitchell as high and rocky, but wild and picturesque in the extreme, until within a day's journey of the sea, when the country falls as the waters expand. It runs over a bed of trap-stone, but presents a depth free from those masses of dead timber which create an impediment common to the rivers of a wild country, admirably adapted for steam navigation, could a boat for the purpose be introduced at its mouth. The banks below the junction of the river with the Wannon are covered with lots of thick wood, above which, the whole valley of Nangeela, as it is called by the natives, is rich, clear, and fertile. The tide rises and falls six inches thirty miles from the sea, but does not exceed twelve at its mouth. The mean width of the Glenelg at its entrance is upwards of one hundred yards, with a depth of five fathoms. A bar of sand lies directly across its embouchure, leaving only two narrow channels, for the ingress of small river craft. The water is fit for

use almost within sight of the sea, where the beach is low, sandy, and entirely open to the waves of the Straits.

The Yarra Yarra is supposed to take its source in the mountainous country to the northward and eastward of Port Western, and after a course of probably one hundred miles discharges its waters into the bay of Port Phillip. So far as the stream has been explored upwards, it has been found to flow between high steep banks, in many parts rocky and densely wooded. Within a few miles of the coast this feature changes for a more level country, lightly wooded, and of a rich alluvial soil. This river is navigable for brigs and schooners, of from one hundred to two hundred tons burthen, for eight miles above its entrance, the stream being four fathoms in depth, and of a uniform breadth of thirty yards. Beyond this point the banks increase in height, and those natural indications peculiar to a mountain stream.

There is a tide in the river, reaching in summer eight and even ten miles up its course, in winter not more than six; at its mouth the tide rises and falls six feet. In its passage from the mountains it receives several small rivulets which serve to swell its waters as these approach the sea where a mud flat extending across the entrance, debars the further progress of heavy ships. The Barwan, like the former, rises in the coast range, and descending through the district of Geelong, passes the town of that name, and finally empties itself with a broad shallow reedy outlet into the sea, a few miles to the westward of Port Phillip. It has a tide of several feet twelve or thirteen miles from its mouth, but which is in no way serviceable to navigation. The Weirabee is a small fresh water stream, navigable for crafts of ten or twenty tons, which empties its stream into the head of the bay of Port Phillip.

The Arndell, the saltwater river of the settlers, is a tributary of the Yarra Yarra, and might, from its considerable depth and breadth, aided by the tide which extends its influence some miles upwards, be rendered serviceable for the carriage of farm produce from the estates on its banks to Williams Town or Melbourne.

The Bass is a small and unimportant stream, flowing into the eastern arm of Port Western, and called after the enterprising Surgeon of the Reliance, whose name and services have been already noted.

The Fitzroy, Surry, and Shaw are three small rivers, discovered by Major Mitchell on his excursion to Portland Bay. These derive their waters from the coast range in the vicinity of the sea; and after pursuing parallel and limited courses to the southward, fall into the Straits between the longitudes of 142° and 143° east.

The mountains of Australia Felix are not remarkable either for number, size, or natural peculiarities, unless the snowy ranges of Gipps Land be included in the list; the highest peak of the Australian Alps equals seven thousand feet in altitude, while the mountains of Australia Felix, properly so called, cannot be said to exceed four thousand five hundred. Of the geological construction of these prominent natural features, little of interest can

be imparted; Major Mitchell, in the first survey ever taken of the country, notes the general appearance, formation, and composition of such eminences as were visited by himself; but beyond the information afforded by the record of his necessarily hasty visits, and that supplied by the notes of the present field surveyors (whose range, however, has been hitherto very limited), nothing has been contributed by the present inhabitants. But, as elsewhere remarked, it cannot be expected that the wandering Flock Master, ever occupied in the daily occupations of his trust, will devote his time to extending the resources of scientific knowledge, until the position of his worldly affairs permits of sufficient leisure for the task; to him, passing at various periods of the year over many hundreds of miles, traversing the Province from limit to limit, it is sufficient to see a hill or a mountain at that distance which is most convenient to the straightest and shortest road for his destination, and of which the name and appearance are remembered only as landmarks connected with his *route*.

The Grampians form the central and principal features of the country westward of Port Phillip, and are a lofty chain, situated in the district of Portland Bay. These mountains are divided into three parallel ranges: the Victoria, the Serra, and the Mount William. The general direction is north and south from latitude 37 to latitude 38 S.; the Serra is the midmost and longest division, Mount Zero and Mount Sturgeon form its northern and southern extremity. Mount William, the principal eminence, measures four thousand five hundred feet above the level of the sea, and is in general accessible, but cold and bleak on the summit.

The Pyrenees lie to the eastward of the last, and are scattered ranges of considerable extent, chiefly running in a direction from north to south.

Mount Macedon, in the Port Phillip district, is a fine bold mass, the commencement of a wooded range, extending for the greater part easterly; its height is estimated at above three thousand feet, but clothed with trees to the very summit. It may be crossed by a traveller on horseback, and commands a beautiful view to the south of Port Phillip—to the north of an expanse of country diversified with hill and plain—in the distance the sheen of a river line or body of water, backed by ranges of blue hills—at hand a forest of noble timber, opening in its deepest recesses plains of rich herbage, and watered by running streams. Mount Campbell and Mount Byng are two conspicuous mountains to the northward, which, with Mount Macedon, form the figure of a triangle—the latter being the apex, the former marking the extreme points of the base line to the north-east and north-west.

Mount Hope is a hill of a singular shape, met with by Major Mitchell when he had advanced about a day's journey southward from the banks of the Hume and the Yarraine, and so named because from its brow he obtained the first glimpses of that beautiful land, which, in his enthusiasm and delight, he named Australia Felix.

Mount Disappointment is a dark rocky mountain at the heads of the River Plenty, about forty miles distant from Melbourne; it is covered with timber of immense size, and in parts with a vine scrub of an impenetrable nature. It was this obstruction which caused the travellers, Hovell and Hume, in their overland journey to Port Phillip, to turn back towards the River Goulburn, and leave in the name they attached to the hill a lasting memento of their undeserved and unexpected failure. Many reports are abroad that gold, both in ore and sand, have been discovered on this mountain; to one of which, indeed, the author, from the testimony of a practical mineralogist, is inclined to give some credence. Notwithstanding the repulsive and difficult nature of the attempt, a passage has been made across the mountain at a very late date.

Station Peak, the highest point of the Villemanata Range, is a well-known land mark in the harbours of Port Phillip and Geelong. The mountain is accessible on every side, and is remarkable in the district on account of its picturesque beauty.

The mountainous range commonly known as the Western Port Range, runs in the direction of that harbour, and is continued as far even as Cape Schank and Wilson's Promontory.

The chief mountains have been all enumerated, except Mount Napier and the Mamoidal Hills, and these, as bearing traces of volcanic origin, ought not to be omitted in describing the natural curiosities of the land, although want of space prevents at this time a more prolix account.

Australia Felix displays in its wide and varied extent numerous lakes, remarkable either for their size or the natural phenomena these severally present.

Lake Carangymite, so called by the natives of Geelong, is situated under longitude $133^{\circ} 10'$, at a distance of fifty miles from the township which gives its title to the district. When first discovered it was supposed from its vast size to be an arm of the sea; its proper character was however determined by Dr. Thomson, an enterprising settler in those parts, who in examining its extent and direction, found it to be a lake upwards of ninety miles in circumference. Its waters are perfectly salt, and to the southward so shallow as to be crossed by the natives for a distance of fifteen miles. To the north the lake appears to deepen to a degree that cannot be accurately ascertained. Fresh water streams supply this enormous basin on all sides; one of these is reported to equal, in size, the Barwan.

Lake Hindmarsh, the discovery of Mr. Eyre, who in his unsuccessful attempt to continue Major Mitchell's track to South Australia, followed down the Winmera to its confluence with this lake, is estimated to be thirty miles in circumference. Its depth and contents, whether animal, vegetable, or mineral substances, remain unknown. Its waves are fresh and entirely supplied by the Winmera. It occupies a solitary position in all uninhabited unfruitful country, and possesses no other apparent points of interest for the curious or industrious searcher.

Lake Boga, situate near the junction of the Bayungan with the Hume, is twelve miles round, fresh, and probably of considerable depth. The land in its vicinity is not peculiar for either fertility or beauty.

Lake Linlithgow is one of several pieces of water in the neighbourhood of the Grampians, opening their fresh water stores in the richest soil of Australia Felix.

Lake Colac is the principal of a number of lakes, chiefly salt, in the neighbourhood of the huge Carangymite. The country in which these are situate is of the most beautiful and fertile description, the scenery enchanting in its variety, and the herbage both nutritious and abundant. To these may be added the salt water lakes discovered and examined by Major Mitchell, running in a chain from north to south, for sixty miles, under the longitude of 142° E.

CHAPTER IV.

GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY.

(Continued.)

IN entering upon a view of the interior, with the various districts and towns of the Province, it will be most intelligible to the reader to describe the country under such divisions as are officially recognized. According to the plan pursued in the older colonies, Port Phillip has its counties, its police districts, its towns and its parishes; in Van Diemen's Land, it will be observed, the insularity of that colony, and the occupation to a very full extent of all the available land, has induced the Government to establish permanent boundaries to its interior divisions, while the greater expanse of this territory, and the desultory and unfrequent mode in which it is populated, render it necessary to assign specific divisions only in relation to the movements of the inhabitants, and the capricious manner adopted by them in the formation of settlements. Thus, when the transmigration of the people of Van Diemen's Land to Port Phillip (a place then without the boundaries wherein waste lands might be applied for by intending purchasers,) became the means of opening a port and founding a township, the country, as the inhabitants increased and the operations of a local government required the distinction, was distinguished by such sub-divisions as we have noticed. Of these there are four kinds: the first has relation to the functions of the Commissioners of Crown Lands, (two of whom divide the Province between them), and contains the districts of Western Port and Portland Bay, a central line of longitude between the parallels 141° and 146° E. forming the mutual boundary; the second has reference to the duties of the Protectorate, and divides the Province into four unequal portions, generally known by the names appertaining to the several head stations of the four Assistant Protectors, such as Western Port, Goulburn, Mount Macedon, and Geelong; as the communication, however, of these officers with the furthest native tribes extends itself, their stations will in all probability be removed according as circumstances may point out, changes which must of course occasion a corresponding alteration in the designation of territory under their charge; the third comprehends the counties, three in number, which have been apportioned by Government, and severally named as the county of Bourke, of Grant, and of Normanby; the fourth includes the police districts, two only of which have been hitherto established, those of Melbourne and Geelong, their capital towns, bearing the same name, are the seats of a police magistrate's jurisdiction; even these divisions, however, are so vaguely defined as to render accuracy in detail virtually impossible. The river Weirabee forms

a boundary line between the two, on either side of which the country, wherever in possession of stockholders, comes naturally under the protection and authority of the nearest bench; for as the settlers spread themselves eastward of Melbourne, filling up the space intervening between New South Wales and the recently located territory, they will, until another police bench be fixed either at the Goulburn, the Violet Ponds, Western Port, Mount Macedon, or some intermediate point, consider themselves as under the jurisdiction of Melbourne. In like manner, until a magistrate be appointed at Portland Bay, Port Fairy, Mount Rouse, or on the Lodon, the settlers inhabiting the country, no matter how far westward of Geelong, will seek that township for the settlement of matters coming under the judicial power of a police magistrate.

In the Melbourne District are situated the towns of Williamstown, Melbourne, Mitchells Town, and a settlement lately marked on the Violet Ponds.

The Geelong District contains the towns of Geelong and Portland.

Williamstown, situated at the head of the harbour of Port Phillip, and immediately upon the principal anchorage at the mouth of the river leading up to Melbourne, was evidently intended by nature to be the principal settlement of the Province; its position, its fine anchorage, and secure harbour, together with a beach admirably disposed for the construction of piers and wharfs—all proclaim it the most eligible site for a capital. A species of caprice, however, which is difficult to account for, (except we take into consideration the dislike of a community, met for the purpose of settling a new country, to encounter acts of more than necessary labour,) drew the whole stream of immigrants to locate at Melbourne, which consequently gained an ascendancy at the commencement that many years will now scarcely counteract. The secret of this preference evidently lies in the fact of Melbourne having had a supply of fresh water from the river which ran through its centre, while at Williamstown the operation of well-sinking was requisite for the attainment of this absolute necessary of life; the introduction, however, of steam on the Yarra, and the clearance of the river banks so as to admit of the extension of the two towns toward each other, will, before many years have elapsed, complete the facilities of communication to such a degree as to render a division between the populations of these settlements even less nominal than that existing between the "City" and "Westminster."

Williamstown, at this time, contains about one hundred buildings, including two hotels, eight or ten mercantile stores upon a scale quite equal to any in Melbourne, and one or two retail shops. A small pier to afford accommodation for ships boats, and a lighthouse for the direction of vessels navigating the bay at night, have been lately constructed; a well, which contributes greatly to the comfort of the inhabitants, was sunk by mutual subscription. The offices of the Harbour Master, Boarding and Custom's Officer, and the Pilots of the port and river, are stationed at this town;

a signal station is in the course of formation, and it is in contemplation to appoint an assistant magistrate for the due regulation of its municipal economy. It is incumbent on the Government to remove the Custom House to Williamstown, as most convenient to the shipping and mercantile interests—to furnish some means for watering vessels with ease and despatch—and to complete a wharf, for the approach of lighters and the reception of their cargoes. It is to be desiderated that some place of public worship, erected at the joint expense of the public and the Government, should open its doors of instruction, as well to the permanent inhabitants as the visiting seamen of the port; a school, also, for the education of children, is greatly required. A shipwright's establishment is, naturally enough, in great demand. Land is almost as valuable as at Melbourne, while the price of labour, although the demand may not be very constant, is certainly remunerating to an extent almost incredible.

Nearly at the point where the shipping lie at anchorage, a fresh water river, the Yarra Yarra, empties itself into Hobson's Bay. This beautiful little stream, although not more than three-quarters of a mile in width at its entrance, yet from its great and clear depth, presents a short and secure passage for brigs, schooners, and all vessels of a lighter class up to the site of Melbourne. A mud flat, extending nearly the whole breadth of its mouth, forms, unfortunately, a barrier to the progress of heavier ships; it is, however, to be trusted that a few years will enable the revenue to grant the use of a dredge, by means of which the obstructions could be cleared and vessels of 400 tons find access to the wharfs of the upper town. Two miles from its confluence with the sea, the Yarra Yarra receives a tributary from the northward, six miles above which the town of Melbourne is laid out. A fall in the river at this stage of its course, has, by giving an impetus to the stream, scooped out of the bank a singular basin of an irregular oval shape, which, without any extraordinary labour or expense, might be formed into a semicircular wharf of six hundred feet in the extent of its outline, where, in a depth of water exceeding twenty feet, the colonial shipping could be moored under the very windows of the Custom House. The plan of Melbourne was originally a parallelogram; its length along the banks of the Yarra Yarra is one mile, by a breadth of three quarters. It is evident that Sir Richard Bourke, in allowing so confined a portion, could have formed no accurate estimate of the unrivalled growth it has since manifested; the whole of the original space appropriated having been covered with shops, warehouses, offices of men of business, and handsome private dwellings. The principal part of the town is laid out in a low fertile valley, the rich soil of which, extending back with a gentle slope from the river banks, affords a fine material for the numerous gardens which are attached to several houses of the place. The extreme ends of the town are carried over two rising and picturesque eminences, and the whole situated, as it were, on the verge of a beautiful park, the grounds and scenery in the suburbs partaking in a man-

ner the most pleasing to English recollections, of all the quiet subdued interest of an old English domain. It would be impossible to convey to the European reader an adequate idea of the rise and progress of a settlement or town such as Melbourne, because there are no records or circumstances in the Old World which can be brought into comparison with the history or actions of the New. Sydney, Hobart Town, or Launceston experienced, it is true, the greatest difficulty in the outset of their existence; but it must be borne in mind that the inhabitants of each formed, except the aborigines, the entire population of the country—that without a knowledge of the soil and seasons, and the capabilities of these to produce materials for maintenance or clothing, the first colonists were necessarily dependant upon England, India, the Cape, or the Isle of France, for the means of bare subsistence. These impediments have been smoothed away before the path of later adventurers; and colonial experience in wool culture, agriculture, fisheries, and indigenous productions has effected for Melbourne in a few months, what years had scarcely brought to light in the older settlements. This position will be best understood by a cursory view of the early history of this settlement. The apparent coldness with which the overtures of the Port Phillip Association, through their agent, Mr. Batman, were met by Colonel Arthur, transpired, it appears, at an early period, and in too public a manner not to prove detrimental to their views; amongst other characters who had acquired some well-defined insight into the movements of the former party, was one of the name of Fawcner, at that time host and proprietor of the Launceston Hotel. Hearing of the formation of this Colonization Society, under the immediate superintendence of Mr. Batman, he was desirous, it would appear, to unite himself with them in their copartnery schemes, a measure which on their part was selfishly declined. Although disappointed in this quarter, he waited the return only of the *Enterprise*, then on a voyage to Sydney, to carry out his determination of participating in their fortunes. On the arrival, therefore, of this vessel, it was dispatched with several parties, the members of a rival association, to explore the harbour of Western Port, and, failing there, to proceed at once to Port Phillip, and with the ultimate object of acquiring property either by the means of conveyance from the natives, or the simple right of pre-occupation. The commander of the *Enterprise* having, according to these directions, visited Western Port, but without discovering any eligible site for a town, bore away for the sister port; where, on Saturday, the 17th of August, the *Enterprise*, commanded by Hunter, and carrying, as members of a second Emigrating Company, Messrs. Lancy, Evans, Jackson, and Marr, came to an anchor under the beautiful headland of Arthur's Seat; on the 21st the schooner reached the river, described in Mr. Batman's Journal* as flowing from the eastward, and with some little delay passed the point where that gentleman's cutter as before mentioned had anchored at the junc-

* The Yarra Yarra.

tion of the first with a second stream from the north, and on the 29th arrived in safety at the present site of the Queen's Wharf. Naturally much alarmed by such an occurrence, and anxious to preserve his first claim to the land until the decision of the Minister should be made known, Mr. Batman removed the greater part of his establishment from Indented Head, and erected fresh huts on the hill which forms now the western extremity of the town.—The congregation of these two parties, under such curious circumstances, was, in fact, the commencement of Melbourne. This took place in September, 1835.

On the termination of this the first year of its infancy, it may not prove void of interest to note the appearance and position of the self-created colony. The settlement was composed of two weather-boarded huts with brick chimnies, and eight or ten sod erections, occupied by Dr. Cotter, the superintendent, and others, the servants of the Association; the sum total of the population could not have exceeded fifty. The number of live stock in the place has been pretty accurately estimated at one hundred head of cattle and one thousand four hundred sheep, six horses, and a small proportion of dogs, rabbits and poultry; three stations had been formed within a distance of ten miles, which were known by the names of their respective owners, Connolly's, Swanston's, and Solomon's; the number of shipping entered inwards was eight, one barque, two brigs, four schooners, and one cutter; finally, the country had been explored to the northward to an extent of twenty miles, by a party of gentlemen, and found in every portion to exceed the utmost expectation that had been formed of its beauty and fertility.—During the early months of the following year (1836) this germ of the future capital was rapidly progressing. The first adventurers began to open their eyes to the necessity of acquiring neighbours and friends for mutual protection and support; each one accordingly wrote to those in whom he might be interested, counselling their immediate translation to the land of promise.

The selfish and injurious policy hitherto pursued having been once happily discarded, several gentlemen of wealth and respectability were induced to send their sons and younger relations from Van Diemen's Land, with sheep, into a country which afforded so much finer an opening than the crowded state of the parent soil. A tide of immigration was by this measure set in motion, which has since swelled to an incredible degree, while a firm and stable foundation of future national wealth and prosperity was laid in the introduction of wool-bearing sheep.* The collision between the aboriginal natives and the white intruders appears to have commenced at an early period; in March of this year the mutual dis-

* The reader may feel amused at the constant repetition of the term "wool-bearing" as applied to sheep, it being perfectly evident, without such particular explanation, that sheep are neither clothed with hair nor any other cuticular covering; but probably when it is explained that the term is used only to lay a stress upon the superior advantages derived by commerce from the wool of the sheep than from the skin, horns, fat or mutton of the animal, it may serve to allay his criticism, and sanction the writer's usage.

trust broke out in a calamity distressing to the Europeans, destructive to the blacks: two men, shepherds in the employ of Swanston, were speared to death at Koraio, in the district of Geelong. The attacks which ensued, fomented as there were by the treachery of the natives, the powerful retaliation of the whites, called at length the attention of the distant government to the real state of this newly-discovered territory.

Mr. Stewart, then police magistrate of the Goulburn district in New South Wales, was specially ordered down in the Revenue Cutter Prince George, on a visit of inspection and report. During his visit a meeting was held by the staid and elderly inhabitants, chiefly stock proprietors, for the purpose of framing certain resolutions, the object of which should be the creation of a provisional government previous to the appointment of a police magistrate for the district. The main spring of this temporary order of rule seems to have consisted in the erection of a Court of Appeal, to which any member of the community was privileged to have access against the real or fancied aggression of another; its authority, however, rested upon the simple plan of causing inquiry and proclaiming award, no power having been vested in them to infringe the personal freedom of the subject. Another point of almost equal importance was the desire evinced to the meeting to bind each other down by some very wholesome and prudent rules in respect to their relative position with the aborigines, a determination to refrain from encouraging the use of fire-arms amongst the savages, and to protect the harmless and more peaceable among them from any system of wanton aggression. These, when duly subscribed to, were submitted to the perusal of the magistrate before mentioned, who was well pleased to find so respectable a community in so wild a land, having evidently been impressed with very unfavorable ideas regarding the character of this nest of adventurers. The date of this circumstance, by reference to Mr. Fawcner's Journal, was the 1st June, 1836; at which time Mr. Stewart, by the ready assistance of the settlers, was enabled to gather the following points of statistical information:—In the six months which had elapsed since the close of the preceding year, the settlement had assumed the appearance of a village, several buildings, although of rude construction, having been erected; of these many had their plot of garden ground attached; a blacksmith's forge was at work; soil fit for the manufacture of bricks had been discovered and experimentally tried, and upwards of fifty acres of rich light black loam had been brought into general cultivation. The number of sheep which had been imported amounted to sixteen thousand nine hundred and seventy-five, which, in addition to those belonging to the colony in December, and their subsequent increase, would give a total of twenty thousand; the number of shipping arrivals had been in all thirty-five, barques, brigs and schooners, besides the Revenue cutter Prince George, and the population had increased to upward of two hundred; stations had been formed in number proportionate to the increase of stock, and the surrounding country for fifty miles laid open for location.

The favorable report made by Mr. Stewart, regarding the natural capabilities of the "new country," its fine port and secure harbour, its navigable river, and above all, the independent colony which bade fair to rise upon the pastoral occupations of a handful of Van Diemen's Land sheep owners, determined Sir Richard Bourke to visit the place in person, and take steps to organize the commerce and other advantages of the district. Pending his own movements, a Police Magistrate (Lieutenant Lonsdale,) an officer of customs (Mr. Webb,) four gentlemen of the survey department, Messrs. Russell, Darke, D'Arcy and Stapylton were dispatched in H.M.S. *Rattlesnake*, commanded by Captain Hobson, to open the rudiments of a local government. In the month of April ensuing, His Excellency himself paid a visit to the port in the same vessel, accompanied by Mr. Hoddle, to take charge of the district survey operations; on the 19th of May, 1837, the plan of Melbourne was formed, under the personal inspection of the Governor, who subsequently proceeded to Geelong, and there laid out the town which bears that name. In the meantime the *Rattlesnake* commenced and completed a survey of the harbour and its opening, and upon the report of the commander, a town was designed upon the beach of a small cove, called after the captain of the surveying vessel Hobson's Bay, to which was given the name of Williamstown.

The date, and all circumstances of interest connected with the formation of the town and port of Melbourne having been recorded, it will now only be necessary to bring forward the narrative of its progress from that period.

When the writer first saw this settlement, in January 1838, a few months after its authorised establishment, it presented more the appearance of the villages he had seen in the interior of India; a nucleus of huts embowered in the forest foliage and peering at itself in the river stream that laved the thresholds of its tenements, than any collection of buildings formed by European hands. It was at that time possessed of two wooden houses, serving the purposes of hotels or inns to the settlers who frequented the little town, upon the occasion of their bringing their wool produce to the port, or new arrivals, before they committed themselves to the trials and privations of the "bush." A small square wooden building, with an old ship's bell suspended from a most defamatory-looking gallows-like structure, fulfilled the duty of church or chapel to the various religious denominations, whence, however, the solemn voice of prayer and praise, sounding over the yet wild country, had an effect the most interesting and impressive. The ground which had been discovered on the river's side, of a nature fitted to the manufacture of bricks, had been applied in one or two instances with full success, the earth also, it was found in many parts, appeared capable of yielding much fine and rough stone, useful to the practises of the mason and the builder. The communication with Van Diemen's Land had then become constant; with Sydney however it still remained unfrequent; this might be attributed as much to the greater quota of the residents having trans-migrated from the sister island, as to the relative proximity of

the ports of the former with that of Melbourne. Of fresh meat, mutton was still scarce, and beef seldom or ever seen; the flesh of the kangaroo, with all the natural variety of wild fowl, was in abundant use. Two or three shops, forming general emporiums for every description of immediately useful articles, although exceedingly inferior, opened their stores to the public, while a branch establishment of a Van Diemen's Land Bank flourished on its monetary exchanges, discounts and circulation. A manuscript newspaper, conducted by a publican, enlightened the inhabitants as to their rights and necessities, without however any very laborious attention to the rules of either Lindley Murray, or Johnson.

The writer left for Sydney in February of the same year, and on his return, after the lapse of six months, so great was the general improvement, so rapid had been its progress, as to render it impossible for the memory to keep pace with the movement; brick buildings were numerous, some boasting of two and even three stories; the hotels were transformed into handsome and convenient inns, and the lines of streets had been cleared, marked, and were in some parts under a process of partial Macadamization; branches of two Sydney Banks were in active operation, and the population had well nigh quadrupled its former number, bringing with them, or rather in its wake, houses of agency, and a multitude of intermediate dealers, fully alive to all the advantages deducible from an incipient trade. In the month of October following the first newspaper, besides the manuscript already spoken of, was published in the town, under the title of the "Port Phillip Gazette."

In its opening address to the public, this little journal observed: "Sir George Gipps, in laying the estimates for 1839 before the Legislative Council, stated that the land revenue during the first six months of this year (1838) amounted to only £31,662 10s. 9d., and estimating the revenue for the last six months at the same rate, we shall have only the sum of £63,325 1s. 6d. to meet the expenditure in emigration in the year 1838. Now, from this it appears, that the total amount of the land revenue realized during the first six months of the year, from the entire territory of New South Wales, was £31,662 10s. 9d., whereas the Melbourne district alone realised in two days, the 12th and 13th of September, the sum of £35,359 3s. 0d. being positively £3,696 12s. 3d. more than the probable revenue estimated by Sir George Gipps in his financial minute, from the land sales of the entire territory of New South Wales for the last six months of the year."

Again, we may contrast, in a way the most favorable to ourselves, the state of this district with the colony of Van Diemen's Land, possessing a population of forty-one thousand five hundred and twelve souls, living on a soil which, with its capabilities, has constituted it the granary of Australasia, enjoying an extended and wealthy commerce, a well-acting if not popular government, and a support from the labour of its convict population, the want of which has made our infant community quail before its oppressive character. Sir John Franklin, in his financial minute, stated the land revenue for twenty-two months, namely, from the 1st July,

1836, to 30th April, 1838, at £52,850 8s. 7d., against which the expense of gaols and police for the same period was set down at £51,146 9s. 0d., leaving a balance of only £1,705 7s. 10d. available for immigration.

Melbourne, from this date, did not appear to rise so fast, or to acquire so large and increasing a population as might have been expected from the extreme enthusiasm with which it was lauded by the inhabitants, or the eagerness with which every species of information connected with the interests of the new settlement was circulated and received in the neighbouring colonies. The origin, however, of this momentary stagnation was easily traced by those acquainted with the affairs, and especially the political affairs of the province, to the impolitic measures enforced by Sir George Gipps during the period here alluded to. The provincial lands, which, under the government of his predecessor, Sir Richard Bourke, had been disposed of at Melbourne, were suddenly, and without reason, transferred to Sydney; the voluntary promises made by his former Excellency to secure the introduction of free immigrants in lieu of that convict labor, which had, by the mutual desire of the Home and Colonial Legislatures, been withheld from the Port Phillipians, were disregarded by the present Governor; nor was it until the inhabitants had themselves petitioned for a proportion of free labor equivalent to the funds raised in the district, that one! vessel, thirteen months subsequently, conveyed to Melbourne a cargo of government immigrants. The port of Port Phillip, which, since the establishment of a Custom House, had enjoyed the privileges of a free warehousing port, was capriciously placed without the pale of an enactment so beneficial to its mercantile prosperity, and was only sullenly restored to its former position upon a *very strong* remonstrance having been presented from the merchants, graziers and landowners of the district. These injudicious regulations, together with the extremely penurious manner in which the public expenditure was managed by His Excellency, although it had been expressly provided by the Secretary of State that the wants of this dependancy should be freely supplied from its productive land fund, brought on consequences which might, but for the vigilance of influential parties at home, have left Australia Felix at this moment wasting its superlative advantages in unsuccessful efforts to shake off the incubus of a bad government. What, indeed, could be expected from private enterprise more than had been accomplished? The town of Melbourne had been built and populated by the experienced capitalists of the neighbouring colonies, the commerce and trade were confined to colonial voyages and inter-colonial transactions, all the spare population of the old countries had been drained off to supply the younger settlement, and now without convict labor, without free labour in return for their land fund, without adequate civil protection, without proper facilities for purchasing land, or having purchased to cultivate it, and without any public expenditure to supply and reciprocate their efforts, what indeed could be expected from private enterprise more than had been accomplished?

It need not, therefore, be longer a subject of wonder that Melbourne should have exhibited fewer signs of advancement during the twelve months from October, 1838, to the same month in 1839, than it did previous and subsequent to these dates. At the close of 1839 arrived His Honor C. J. Latrobe, Esq. appointed by the Home Government to exercise the powers of a Lieutenant-Governor within the limits of the province, or rather beyond the limits of the older government to the boundary of South Australia. Within a period of a few months the first vessel containing government immigrants, as also the first ship with bounty immigrants, supplied the chief want of the distressed colony, while the intelligence circulated at home upon the advantages, state and prospects of Australia Felix, through the agency of its local press, established a commercial communication that has poured manufactures, capital and population into the country to a highly beneficial extent; the land sales, from an order brought out by Mr. Latrobe, were properly re-transferred to Melbourne, and while the ordinary revenue bids fair, by his management, to increase greatly in value, the annual expenditure upon public purposes has, by his representations, been placed upon a scale which, in its liberality, is more consonant with the value and importance of the province. The town of Melbourne at this time extends by the banks of the river Yarra Yarra for a length of two miles by a breadth of three quarters, and contains, with its suburbs, upwards of one thousand dwellings, and a resident population of six thousand inhabitants. The buildings, which are concentrated to a degree which is more than usual in colonial towns, consist of various material, the greater part being brick, but some few of a species of stone, valuable both for its handsome appearance and durable character; the remainder constructed of wood, may present a contrast at first sight strange to English associations, but with the aid of verandahs, venetians and outer coats of fresh light colours, are capable not only of combining elegance and comfort in their structure, but of creating feelings in favor of a style which is suited as well to the climate as the necessities of the inhabitants. Melbourne is copiously supplied with fresh water from the river which runs through the town, as it is also with every necessary of life, and not a few of its luxuries. The public buildings are scant in number, and of no importance; funds, however, have lately been appropriated for the completion of a handsome Custom House, Court House and Gaol. Each religious denomination has either completed, or in the course of erection, a commodious place of worship, which both for beauty and stability may vie with similar edifices in any secondary town of England. The capital of Australia Felix is well supplied with all the ordinary manufactures and trades; inns and houses of accommodation are abundant, and well regulated; shops of every description are numerous, and supplied with goods of more than ordinary quality and quantity. There is no lack of mercantile houses and stores, agents or brokers. The professions are well and respectably filled, and the wealth of the town, both by imported capital and exchanges on export products, is daily and profitably increased.

For the reader simply and readily to understand the importance of Melbourne, both as a sea-port of a country fertile and extensive, and the principle point for the operations of an organised system of government, a compendium, such as the writer's position has enabled him to acquire by long residence and observation, of its statistics, including buildings, population, value of property, and local trade, may, although unbacked by any official voucher, be here introduced. The following table will shew the population and number of buildings, their value, as well as that of landed property, during each year specified, calculating from June, 1837, to October, 1840:—

Year.	Population.	No. of Buildings.	Value of Buildings.	Value of Land.
June, 1837.	250	36	£1,800	£3,517
June, 1838.	1800	300	£60,000	£17,406
June, 1839.	3000	560	£112,000	£169,542
Oct. 1840.	5538	923	£230,750	£372,600

Add to the value of buildings.....	£230,750	0	0
And value of land	372,600	0	0
The stock in trade of thirty-six mercantile houses averaging £10,000	360,000	0	0
Of one hundred and seventy-five miscellaneous dealers, averaging £250	43,750	0	0
Three thousand tons colonial shipping, averaging £20 per ton	60,000	0	0
Deposits and capital of three banks averaging £100,000	300,000	0	0
Paid up capital of five companies at £10,000.....	50,000	0	0

And the total value of property in Melbourne
will be£1,392,000 0 0

ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY-TWO THOUSAND
POUNDS STERLING !!!

Geelong, the capital town of the county of Grant, is laid out with one end resting on the cliffs of Caraio Bay, overlooking its anchorage, the other on the river Barwon. The situation makes Geelong at once the emporium of trade for the central district of the province, and the outlet for all its export products; considerable quantities of wool for the British, of wethers, hides and tallow for the Van Diemen's Land market, are annually shipped from this town. With a populous district around it, giving circulation to large monetary and mercantile transactions, the stunted growth of this town may seem enigmatical to the reader until possessed of all the facts which, under the control of a government at once distant from, and ignorant of, local interests and local wants, have retarded its progress. The principal cause is to be found in the improper retention of town allotments in the hands of the government; until the month of August in the present year not a single

building site had been alienated to desiring purchasers, with the exception of a few in 1838, and these having been disposed of in Sydney were bought by speculators, whose last object it was either to settle there themselves or part with the possession on improving leases. Thus up to this hour Geelong presents a few straggling houses, comprising in one spot the dwellings of the police magistrate and constabulary, and in another locality nearly a mile distant a few mercantile stores and private buildings. The number, however, of inhabitants in the immediate neighbourhood, occupying suburban lands previously sold, supply the church of the township with a congregation, which upon occasions exceeds the number of two hundred—a circumstance yielding satisfactory evidence of the immediate concentration that might long past have been effected, and which will now certainly commence upon the basis formed for its support.

Geelong is the seat of a magisterial bench, having a resident justice of the police, and being a court of judicature for the crown commissioner of the district; a coast waiter from the customs department is stationed at the township, for the inspection of vessels receiving or discharging goods under an entrance or clearance from the sub collector at Melbourne. The local government will, it is expected, take some notice of this township under its present improving aspect, and afford a small sum for the erection of a pier upon the beach, a police office and watch house in some more convenient portion of the town than is now occupied by the magistrate, for a supply of water as well to residents as the shipping, and in support of a stronger police for the extensive and unprotected district attached to the town.

A branch of the Port Phillip Bank is stationed at Geelong, and there are resident directors of the Melbourne Insurance and Steam Packet Companies; a newspaper, to be styled the *Geelong Advertiser*, which will shortly be published in the township, must become an invaluable commercial and political agent. Geelong is decidedly in a more healthy situation than Melbourne; the country around is scarcely less fertile or beautiful, and the harbour, if once the channel be cleared of the narrow but obstructive bar at its innermost edge, will prove superior, both on account of anchorage and position, than that of Hobson's Bay. It must, indeed, ere long, become a subject of serious investigation whether (unless a separate Customs establishment be formed there,) that at Melbourne should not be removed to Geelong.

The settlement of Portland, at Portland Bay, has been formed with a view of placing under the protection of a local magistracy its increasing population, and also of bringing its commerce under the control of the Customs by the appointment of an officer of that establishment to the port. The sale of town allotments will be the speedy means of giving support to any permanent improvements, which its already congregated and increasing population may desire to carry into execution. There are three or four stores established at Portland, by which the neighbouring farmers and the more distant settlers are supplied; a constant communication ex-

ists between Van Diemen's Land and Portland, and the locality gives every indication of proving a valuable acquisition to the territory—whilst its numerous advantages, little inferior to either Melbourne or Geelong, hold out favorable prospects to settlers of every class.

Mitchellstown is prettily situated on the river Goulburn, at a distance of eighty miles from Melbourne, and on the direct line of mail communication between this town and Sydney. Its interior position will prevent Mitchellstown arriving to any size or distinction for many years, unless the waste lands in the vicinity, now in the lands of extensive graziers, be sold and brought under cultivation, when its locality will render it serviceable as a depot of produce and supplies to the surrounding country. A small inn, known as the Travellers' Rest, with some stock-yards and paddocks for the accommodation of cattedriving along the road for Melbourne, Portland, or Adelaide, has been for some time licensed at this place.

The township marked out for location at the Violet River, about forty miles beyond Mitchellstown, on the way to Sydney, and nearly equidistant between the rivers Goulburn and Ovens, is very favourably situated for the erection of inns, stock-yards, paddocks and stores, for the convenience of the numerous travellers and the great traffic subsisting on this route between the new province and the older settled portions of New South Wales. Much good will result as well to the labours of the settlers as the general security of the district, if these interior settlements be properly supplied with police stations and licenses for public houses.

The topography of a country so recently settled as Australia Felix might be excusably passed over, even in a work professedly compiled with a view to display its minutest properties, as a subject indifferently calculated either to convey any information to the reader, or to engage the awakened interest of his mind. It must, therefore, be an argument of no little weight in favour of this province, that a bare statistical enumeration of the number, length and direction of its roads, would yield information at once extensive and valuable. Throughout the country might a tourist find forest and plain traversed by roads of every description, from the first faint bush track of the pioneer squatter to the most beaten and frequented line of communication between contiguous estates; shewing at once the accessible nature of the country, and the manner in which it has been explored and occupied by an active and determined population.

In this place, however, it would be impossible to describe more than two or three of the principal, those only, in fact, which have been made available by Government for the conveyance of public mails; these will comprehend the Sydney and Portland Bay Road, with the lines of road between Melbourne, Geelong and Williams Town.

The first leaves Melbourne by the north end of Elizabeth-street, and keeps the following bearings through that part of the country which has been mapped and surveyed by the Government:—

N. W. by N. one mile,
Due north three and a half miles,

here it crosses the Merri Creek, and intersecting the village reserve of Pentridge, is enclosed on both sides by numerous estates, and bordered by little villas and farms, affording a most gratifying example of the agricultural industry of the country; land in consequence realizes large sums in the immediate neighbourhood, and is eagerly sought after by gardener and nurserymen. Pentridge will shortly, it is expected, be opened for purchase; the inhabitants having expressed a wish to the Superintendent to obtain a place of worship in their vicinity, for the erection of which sufficient funds are already collected. Leaving Pentridge the road passes for $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles due north, through a district of incomparable land to Mercer's Vale, a few miles beyond which is erected a most commodious hotel on the Kinlochewe Estate; the various parishes, to give the reader some idea of the native names, through which this road passes within the line of the present survey, are severally known as "Will Will Rook," "Jika Jika," "Willan Rook," "Kall Kall," and "Merriang." From this point the Sydney Road continues nearly in a N. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. course until it reaches Mitchellstown, on the River Goulburn, eighty miles from Melbourne.—From the Goulburn to the Broken River, the limits of the province, the road passes over an extent of unattractive bush country for sixty-five miles, on which the traveller can make the following stages, calculating the distance sfrom Mitchellstown to

Hughes' Station.....	10 miles
Templeton's ditto	25 ditto
Violet Creek	15 ditto
Broken River.....	15 ditto

At the Violet Creek, a spot, the beauty of which contrasts remarkably with the general monotonous scenery in the distance between these two rivers, is the site of a township, while at the Broken River a police force is stationed, for the protection of the numerous bands of settlers, who, with immense flocks and herds, are constantly passing from the older country to the wide green pastures and delicious climate of this favoured province.

The Geelong Road, forming the line of travel between the towns of Melbourne and Geelong, is too well known, as is also that to Williams' Town, to require minute description; it leaves Melbourne at the western end, and crossing the Arndell, (where a diverging road leads to Williams' Town,) keeps a course as nearly west as the shape of the coast along which it runs will allow; there are three inns on this route, erected at the crossing places of the Salt Water, the Weirabee and the Little Rivers; the distance by land, taking this way to the town of Geelong, cannot exceed forty miles.

The Portland Bay road is the main road of the western district, which, leaving Geelong to the south, strikes across the country to the town of Portland, and the banks of the River Glenelg. No authorised projection of this road having yet been determined on, any observation made at this time may only appear both premature and valueless.

The large and lucrative traffic existing between Melbourne and

Adelaide in sheep and cattle exported by the personal activity and enterprise of our settlers into the naked and profitless pastures of South Australia, originated many extensive and well-organized overland expeditions, which in the execution were rendered remarkable either for the dangers experienced and obstacles overcome by the travellers, or the rapidity and judgment displayed in the undertakings.

These overland journeys, in the earlier times of the colony, naturally occasioned considerable excitement, but now that able pioneers have cleared the route, are become so frequent as to be considered in a light similar to any mercantile project by sea. The writer, therefore, does not feel himself warranted in giving space to minute detail; suffice it generally to observe, that during the course of a year upwards of one hundred and eighty thousand sheep have been thus contributed to the stock of the sister colony, while the amount of cattle for the same period has exceeded fifteen thousand.

The three earliest inland navigators, who by their priority of appearance in the field, deserve to be especially recorded among the mass of adventurous spirits, were Mr. Hawdon, Mr. Eyre and Captain Sturt, whose interesting journals formed the basis and guidance of all future operations. Mr. Hawdon leaving Melbourne, crossed the country in a N.N.E. direction, until arrived at the junction of the Goulburn with the Murray, where keeping the river as a line of travel, he followed its banks into the crown province, within a distance of fifty miles from Adelaide; Mr. Eyre, more original and ambitious, discarded this virtually safe route, struck across Australia Felix in a longitudinal direction, and crossing the Loddon and Yarraine rivers, came upon the Wimmera not far from its sources, with the view of following the stream until it should lead (as he expected) to nearly the same point of the Murray as that to which his precursor, Mr. Hawdon, would arrive by a longer and more tedious route; it need hardly be repeated that his bolder project failed from the sudden termination of the Wimmera in a salt lake, situate just beyond the line of longitude that divides this province from the neighbouring colony, in a desert sandy waste; nor needs it to be shewn how, with an indefatigable temperament, he succeeded in reaching at last the banks of the Murray, northward of his position, and met with final success on that road. Captain Sturt, who by discovering and navigating the Murray in an open boat, had proved the chief agent in the success of his fore-runners, started from the crossing place of Major Mitchell, on the Hume, and following the river to its junction with the Murrumbidgee, connected this with his former survey of that noble stream. The most extraordinary, however, of these overland journeys, and certainly the most important, as displaying the natural facilities of the country for topographical research, is that performed by Messrs. Hawdon and Mundy in a *tandem*, of which may be found the following account, in the Gazette of September 21, 1839.

“We beg to lay before the public the welcome intelligence of

the safe arrival of Messrs. Hawdon and Mundy at Adelaide.—These gentlemen left the stations in the neighbourhood of Mount Macedon, on the 11th of July, and drove in a tandem through the uninhabited country of Australia Felix, with as much ease as they might have done through an English park, to the junction of the Murray with Lake Alexandrina, crossing that river on the 8th of August. This journey of five hundred and forty miles was accomplished in twenty-seven days. Their average daily rate of travelling appears to have been about twenty miles. Tuesday, 16th, the travellers arrived at a station of Mr. Bowerman's, on a rivulet which by them was considered as a tributary of the Yarraine. Mr. Allan, the gentleman in charge of the property, showed them the skull of a human being, which Mr. Hawdon describes as being of a highly intellectual formation, and indubitably that of a European; on the back of the skull were the marks of two blows inflicted by a tomahawk. This circumstance leads, on the part of the South Australian Register, to an interesting conjecture respecting the deplored yet unknown fate of Messrs. Gellibrand and Hesse.—Thursday, the 18th, they crossed for seventeen miles over a succession of stringy bark ranges, forming the lowest and eastern extremity of the Australian Pyrenees, so named by Major Mitchell. On the 19th passed through a picturesque country, bounded on the right by the mountain ranges of the Grampians, the summits of which are described as of conical termination, indicating volcanic origin and action, and encamped by moonlight on the Hopkins! (St. Iago what a name!) On the day following, the travellers, in following down the valley of this river, met a native skulking among the reeds, whose fright, or desire of treachery, prevented any communication. On the 21st "it snowed heavily."—As the day cleared up, however, the party pursued their excursion for twenty miles, driving at the rate of eight miles an hour, through a beautiful open forest of she-oak. This day they rounded the most southern point of the Grampians.—On the 22nd they reached the upper part of the river called by Major Mitchell the Wannon. 'Large broad and deep sheets of water, occasionally extending a mile in length, were covered with ducks and swans.' Tuesday, 23rd, continued along the banks of this river for twenty five miles, through a most beautiful forest, and over a thick carpeting of grass; the country altogether being of exactly the same description as that on the Yarra Yarra, eight miles from Melbourne. To day they well in with a tribe of blacks, who ran shouting and screaming after the gig. Mr. Mundy, it appears, having a natural antipathy to these children of nature flogged the horses with such a will as to leave them far behind. On Wednesday, 24th, Messrs. Hawdon and Mundy were agreeably surprised by meeting with a shepherd and his flock, upon some fertile plains at the edge of a forest, which were found to be the property of the Messrs. Winter, whose arrival at Portland Bay, we noticed some weeks past in the Gazette. At this station they passed the night, whence they proceeded by an hour and a quarter's drive to Mr. Henty's station, forty miles north of Portland Bay. 'The

Messrs. Henty,' says Mr. Hawdon, 'have the merit of discovering and first settling in this fine country, and in my opinion have displayed singular judgment in their selection.' Friday, 26th reached the junction of the Wannon and Glenelg, the latter having at this season very little water running in its bed. 'Having now,' continues the journal, 'proceeded down the Wannon, from its source to the Glenelg, I can safely say that on either side the whole distance, one hundred miles, it is the most beautiful country and the richest land yet seen in Australia—well might Major Mitchell call it Australia Felix.' About thirty miles W.N.W. of their crossing place at the Glenelg, they came upon a lake nine miles square; it was subsequently called by Mr. Holloway Lake Mundy. This lake, by their computation, is situated in the 141st degree of longitude, the boundary line between the two colonies.

"From this date to the moment of their crossing the Murray, at a point where some gentlemen from Adelaide were making a special survey, nothing of interest appears to have occurred. The country, although containing sufficient water and grass to enable them, by easy stages, to complete their undertaking, *was yet, in comparison to our side of the Glenelg, a desert.*"

CHAPTER V.

GOVERNMENT, FINANCES AND COMMERCE.

THE Government of Port Phillip is that of a dependency upon New South Wales, being under the control of an officer appointed from home, with the powers of a Lieutenant Governor, under the style and title of "His Honor the Superintendent." Mr. La Trobe is, in short, the representative of His Excellency Sir George Gipps within the province of Port Phillip, in the same manner as the Governor of New South Wales is the representative of Her Majesty, or her Minister, the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The following public letter of instructions, forwarded from the Colonial Secretary's Office to His Honor the Superintendent upon his assuming the reins of authority, will be the clearest, as it is the most authentic guide, for the reader's information:—

"Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales,
10th September, 1839.

"SIR—Her Majesty having been pleased to appoint you to be Superintendent of Port Phillip, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to transmit the accompanying Commission, containing such appointment under the Great Seal of the Territory, and to request that you will proceed by the earliest opportunity, and assume the command of the District.

"2—The District to which you are appointed is considered as consisting of that part of the Territory of New South Wales which lies to the south of the thirty-sixth degree of south latitude, and between the one hundred and forty-first and one hundred and forty-sixth degrees of east longitude. Within these limits you will exercise the powers of a Lieutenant-Governor, and will stand in the same position in respect to the Governor of New South Wales, as the Governor himself stands in with respect to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

"3—All Public Officers within the District of Port Phillip, as above described, whose appointments are strictly of a local nature, will look only to you for instructions.

"4—Public Officers at Port Phillip, belonging to Departments of which the Heads are established at Sydney, or who receive instructions from the head of any department in Sydney, will stand in the same relation to you as the Heads of certain Departments in Sydney (as, for instance, the Ordnance and Commissariat) stand to the Governor of the Colony. They will carry into effect the orders which they receive from the Heads of their respective Departments in the same way as the Commanding Royal Engineer and the Deputy Commissary General carry into effect the orders which they receive from the Ordnance or Treasury, but are nevertheless bound always to communicate to the Head of the Local Government the nature of those instructions, as well as the nature of the measures which they themselves suggest, and also bound to give their assistance to the Head of the Local Government in any matter whatsoever wherein he may require it.

"5—All Officers of the Civil Government, without exception, will look upon you as their immediate Head.

"6—On the occurrence of vacancies, you are at liberty to make appointments where the salaries or emoluments do not exceed one hundred pounds per annum, but all above that amount must be reported for the approval of the Governor, and on no account is the authorised establishment to be exceeded in any way without His Excellency's previous sanction.

"7—In cases of necessity you are empowered to suspend, until the pleasure of the Governor be known, any officer appointed in the Colony, but not such as hold appointments from Her Majesty's Government. If, however, you shall have occasion to disapprove of the conduct of any of the latter, you will immediately report the circumstances for His Excellency's information and decision, with a full detail of the particulars, and the grounds of any recommendation which you may think it necessary to make in the case.

"8—With respect to the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's troops in the District, you will stand in the same relation as the Governor stands to the Major General commanding in the Colony. In all cases wherein the preservation of the peace is concerned, or the enforcement of convict discipline, you will be entitled to call for his assistance; but you will carefully avoid interference in matters purely Military, and you will have no control whatever over expenses defrayed out of the Military Chest. Military Officers, however, holding appointments under the Colonial Government, will be responsible to you for the performance of their Civil duties, and in this class all Officers of the Mounted Police are included.

"9—All letters and returns intended for the Governor's information, instead of being addressed to the Colonial Secretary, will be addressed to you.

"10—You will forward to the Colonial Secretary as many of these letters, or extracts from them as you may think necessary, expressing your own opinion in a separate letter when the subject is important; in others or ordinary cases making a Minute on the margin; and at all times, for the sake of avoiding confusion, confining each communication to a single subject.

"11—The rules to be observed in all matters of Revenue and Expenditure will form the subject of a separate instruction.

"12—In cases which are not met by those rules, you will not on your own discretion, adhering, however, to the general principles which govern the expenditure of the public money, in this as well as in all other parts of the British Empire, viz.—

"(1)—That no expense can be incurred which has not been provided for by the Local Legislature, or expressly charged upon the Land Revenue and specifically authorised by the Governor.

"(2)—That funds provided for one service cannot be expended on another; neither can savings on one item of any service be applied to another.

"(3)—That savings are to be made whenever practicable; and that because a certain sum of money has been provided for any particular service, it does not follow that it must necessarily be expended.

"(4)—That any person who authorises a departure from any one of the three foregoing rules, does so on his own responsibility.

"13—In all matters of Convict discipline, or in the distribution of Convict labour, you will exercise all the functions of the Governor; subject, however, to confirmation or disallowance by His Excellency, and with this exception rendered necessary by the law, namely, that you will not be authorised to withdraw Convicts from the service of any individual without the express order of the Governor. In cases, therefore, when assigned servants are taken from their Masters, either for Police purposes, or for any infraction of the regulations, they are to be kept in Government employment until an order for their final disposal may be received from Sydney.

"14—The Convicts so kept are to be considered as under the Police Magistrate as far as their custody and discipline are concerned. But the direction of their labour will rest with the Clerk of Works, or other Officer in charge of any Department to which you may desire them to be attached.

"15—In further compliance with the law, you will not be authorised to exercise the prerogative of the Crown in the pardoning of offenders, or the remission of punishments. The practice, however, of sending petitions or applications for mercy or remission through you, is to be adopted as far as possible, and in all such cases you will be pleased to express your own opinion on them, obtaining, if practicable, the opinion or report of the Judge, Chairman of Quarter Sessions, or Magistrate before whom the case may have been tried or decided.

"16—Cases will probably arise, wherein it may be desirable for you to

put yourself in direct communication with the Heads of Departments in Sydney, especially, perhaps, the Heads of the Convict and Emigration Departments. The general rule to guide such communications is that they relate only to the detail or fulfilment of instructions previously conveyed through the Colonial Secretary; and that they be continued so long as the despatch of public business is facilitated by them, without disturbing the harmony of the service; but that they be discontinued, and the subject brought through the Colonial Secretary before the Governor, the moment a difference of opinion, or anything likely to lead to a difference of opinion arises.

"17—I am directed in a particular manner to invite your attention to the treatment of the Aborigines, and to the prevention as far as possible, of collisions between them and the Colonists. For your information and guidance in this very important part of your duty, I enclose copies of the principal Government orders now in force respecting them, as also of the instructions which have been issued to the Chief Protector of Aborigines, and the Commissioners of Crown Lands.

"18—In conclusion I am directed to inform you that extracts of the foregoing instructions have been communicated to the several Departments, accompanied by the Governor's commands that strict attention be paid thereto; and His Excellency suggests that, upon your assuming charge, it will be expedient to cause the whole of the present communication to be read in public, for general information and guidance. Further instructions will be transmitted to you from time to time, as the exigencies of the service may require, and I am commanded to add, His Excellency Sir George Gipps will at all times be happy to receive every information and suggestion connected with your duties, or the welfare of the District entrusted to your control, which it may be in your power to offer.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your Honor's most obedient servant,

"E. DEAS THOMSON.

"His Honor, Charles Joseph La Trobe, Esq."

&c. &c. &c.

It will readily be seen by these instructions that Mr. La Trobe's powers are far too limited for the prosperity of the place; the only valuable privilege appertaining to his office is the right of making representations for the "welfare of the district under his control." The only influential power attached to his position is the weight which is supposed to attend his remarks and suggestions. His authority is more that of surveillance than command, for in all steps of actual importance, every thing depends upon the favor his *report* will meet with in the Governor's opinion. As regards his interference in the revenue and expenditure of the province, the estimates for the year are passed by the Legislative Council in Sydney, by whom a certain portion of funds is usually appropriated to the unspecified public works, over which item he can, by judicious management, obtain the sole guidance by applying it under the Governor's sanction to the various contingent public wants which may arise during the year, but even in this small matter the Superintendent cannot, except upon his own responsibility, grant a warrant upon the provincial treasury for the payment of a larger sum than £25, excepting always, the quarterly salaries of officers, the bounties upon immigrants, and such other demands as have been specifically provided for in the provincial budget. In the preparation and construction of this document, by the Auditor General, and its confirmation by the Governor in Council, the requisitions of the Superintendent, it should be observed, are taken into becoming consideration; but still it cannot be denied,

that this constant reference to a Government six hundred miles distant on the most trivial matters is impolitic, *because* injurious to the commerce and internal prosperity of the district. By the 4th paragraph of the recited instructions, it will be perceived that those officers, the head of whose departments is resident in Sydney, are merely bound to communicate the orders which they receive from thence and carry out in Port Phillip, for the information of His Honor, a system which includes nearly every department at Melbourne, as the following classification will demonstrate:—

<i>Dependent.</i>	<i>Independent.</i>
1. Treasury	1. Marine (including Harbour Masters' and Pilots' Establishments)
2. Survey	2. Judicial (comprising Chairman of Quarter Sessions, &c. and Coroner)
3. Customs	3. Police (including Municipal, Mounted, Border and Native Police Officers)
4. Post Office	4. Protectorate.
5. Clerk of the Works (Colonial Architect's Office)	
6. Sheriff's Department	
7. Medical Department	
8. Clerk of the Crown (Attorney General's Office)	

Among the establishments not enumerated in this list the most important is the Ecclesiastical, comprising the ministry and education, of which that congregation aptly styled the Independents is the only one removed from the control of absent superiors; the Church of England and Roman Catholic Ministers being under the orders of their respective Bishops, as are the Wesleyan and Presbyterian Clergymen under their Moderators, all of whom reside at Sydney or Hobart Town. Thus the most important of the establishments necessary to the efficient conduct of a properly organised Government are obliged to be in constant correspondence with Sydney, for the practical regulation of their duties. Besides these departments are those of the Commissariat and Military, the senior officers of which, according to paragraphs 4 and 8, stand in the same relation to the Lieutenant Governor or Superintendent as the Commander in Chief and Deputy Commissary General in Sydney do to the Governor General of the territory; that is, that the military officer holds his men in readiness at the request of the Civil Commandant, and he of the Commissariat imparts the nature and tenor of his instructions to the Superintendent, while the one is a Commander of a single Corps of Infantry, whose bayonets any well disciplined mob might laugh to scorn, and the other is divested of the power of drawing exchequer bills, either for the purposes of commerce or for the accommodation of half-pay officers; thus inflicting an unnecessary waste of time, risk and expense upon those mercantile transactions which, dependent upon the attainment of exchequer bills, must be remitted to a Sydney or Hobart Town agency for effectual accomplishment.

The Civil Establishment of Port Phillip, as ratified by the Colonial Government, for the year 1841, together with the estimates for public works, will impart the most accurate knowledge as to the details both of provincial government and finance:—

<i>Department.</i>	<i>Amount voted.</i>		
Superintendents	£1,204	0	4
Treasury	1,812	10	8
Customs	4,302	3	9
Post Office	2,105	10	0
Harbour Master, &c.	1,172	4	6
Pilot Service.....	2,877	2	6
Public Works (management).....	5,024	9	8
Judicial.....	3,061	16	2
Survey	5,681	18	4
Police	12,817	9	2
Ecclesiastical	2,950	0	0
Schools.....	750	0	0
Medical.....	479	0	10
Public Works	20,500	0	0
	£64,738 5 11		

An amount of expenditure which, when the estimated revenue for the same year £50,000 is deducted, will leave an excess of disbursements over income of £14,738. A product however which could only have been arrived at from gross financial mismanagement, the work of an absent and ignorant Government.

In support of this decided view of the case, the writer will not merely content himself by repeating the general argument in use against the evils to be found in the *practise* of Local Government operations, the inapplicability of some laws to the province which are now in force, and the injustice of withholding other measures which ought to be in force, but trust to the more searching and satisfactory testimony of figures, employing numerical demonstrations in favor of local commerce and wealth, as shown in the returns of the Custom-house and Collector of Land Revenue, and leave it to the reader to decide whether the wholesale misapplication of a most lucrative immigration fund, or the want of national resources and local enterprise has been the cause of this unfavourable balance.

In entering into this statistical investigation it should be prefaced that previous to the arrival of His Honor the Superintendent, the want of some central department whence the business of government might issue, and having circulated, revert, rendered the provincial returns equally uncertain and difficult of attainment. For a considerable period no payments either of salaries of miscellaneous disbursements were authorised at Port Phillip; the officer of each department, in the habit of receiving funds, transmitting them by desultory opportunity to the general treasury in Sydney; while of any funds so accumulated, it was the pleasure of His Excellency to acknowledge only that portion which accrued from the receipts of the Customs.

The only means, therefore, which remain of ascertaining the actual amount of expenditure and receipts during that period will be by reference to the financial minute of Sir George Gipps, for 1840, and his observations upon the affairs of Port Phillip. It is there stated that the expenditure for this district had been for—

1836	£2,164 16 8
1837	5,879 2 5
1838	13,717 11 7

Total.....£21,761 10 8

Add to this the probable expenditure for 1839 as thus—

Brought forward	£21,761 10 8
1839	24,000 0 0

And the total.....£45,761 10 8

will, when balanced with the income of the same period, display an excess of about £27,000 chargeable to the district land fund; the amount of income, however, which was thus so carelessly referred to should have included all those items of public revenue (independent of the Customs) which are so scrupulously taken into account in the Sydney budget; and a certain portion of the cost attendant upon the survey and other departments should have been charged to the land fund in a manner similar to that observed with respect to the management of this revenue for the Sydney district of the territory.

The crown lands revenue for the same period, amounting to £107,576, on five restricted sales was contributed in the following manner:—

Crown Lands Revenue.

1837.

1st June 1837—Melbourne	3,517 0 0
Williams' Town	325 0 0
1st Nov. 1837—Melbourne	3,379 4 0
	£7,221 4 0

1838.

Port Phillip Crown Lands sold in Sydney.....	61,877 16 0
Depasturing Licenses	580 0 0
	£62,457 16 0

1839.

6th August—Melbourne	14,730 12 0
3rd October—Melbourne and Geelong	22,471 13 10
Depasturing Licenses	695 0 0
	£37,897 5 10

The appointment of an official over the affairs of the province bearing the rank and powers of a Lieutenant Governor, has had the salutary effect of giving shape and consistency to the hitherto vague operations of Government with regard to Port Phillip; the various offices necessary to his local authority having been arranged and organised in a manner at once efficient and satisfactory both to the Legislature and the public. Thus the creation of a department holding the same position in reference to this province as the Treasury in Sydney holds to the colony at large, possesses the result of placing the financial state of the country for the present year in a clear and decisive light; the Treasurer of the district receiving not only the large and important revenues derived from the sales and

leases of unlocated crown land, but also the proceeds of such fiscal measures as contribute to the internal or ordinary revenue of the province; and however small the total of these receipts may prove, yet the rule of publicly acknowledging their existence and accounting for their disbursement or application is gratifying to the political economist, at the same time that it is accurately indicative of the progress and prospects of the state.

The local regulations which have been enforced during the short period of His Honor's control, distinctly prove the value of Port Phillip as a colonial dependency, and decide the extent and importance of its financial affairs. By returns which have been furnished to the writer from the Sub Collector of Customs, as also, under the sanction of His Honor the Superintendent, from the department of the Sub Treasurer, he has been able to prepare a report which carries with it all the weight of an official publication, and exhibits a mass of information upon this subject hitherto unattainable in Melbourne.

It will be necessary to observe that the general revenues of the province ought to be and are here classed under three distinct heads. First, THE LAND REVENUE, which, upon principles recognised equally by the Ministry and the Colonial Government, is (less the Survey and Aboriginal expenditure) devoted solely to the uses of immigration.

Second, THE ORDINARY REVENUE, raised by a machinery of taxation, hitherto not very positively defined, and applicable to the general demands of government.

Third, THE POLICE REVENUE, which, derived from Squatting and Timber Licences, and the annual assessment on Stock depasturing on Crown Lands, has been, by a colonial enactment, specially appropriated to the maintenance of a Border Police.

With this explanation the casuist upon Port Phillipian prosperity is referred to the following tabular returns of provincial revenue:

LAND REVENUE.			
Crown Lands	£77,566	19	8
Proceeds of sales of surplus stores landed from Government Emigration Ships.....	498	14	6
Total.....	£78,065	14	2
ORDINARY REVENUE.			
Custom Dues	£8,437	0	0
Wharfage	946	0	0
Entry and Clearance	219	0	0
Publicans' Licenses.....	660	0	0
Wine and Beer License	5	0	0
Confectioner's License	0	10	0
Auctioneers' Licenses.....	12	0	0
Duties on Sales by Auction	1,566	17	4
Fees and Fines Police Melbourne	560	3	5
Ditto Geelong	83	2	9
Amount of Postage.....	267	14	2
Total.....	£12,757	7	8

POLICE REVENUE.

Depasturing Licenses	£1,660	0	0
Timber Licenses	850	0	0
Assessment on Stock	734	16	8
Fees Commissioner Crown Lands Melbourne.....	10	3	6
<hr/>			
Total.....	£3,255	0	2
Total Ordinary Revenue.....	12,757	7	8
Total Land Revenue	78,065	14	2
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*Grand Total	£94,078	2	0

At the time that the financial minute of the Governor was before the Council, His Excellency is said to have stated that the estimated ordinary revenue from Port Phillip for 1841 would not exceed £25,000, while the expenditure for that year as already detailed, amounted to £64,000; such a calculation, however, of the receipts for *next* year, deduced, as it evidently was, from the returns of the Sub Treasurer for *this* year, betrays a want of acquaintance with the progressive nature of the district unpardonable in a financier of Sir George's personal experience. Estimating the revenue for the remaining six months of 1840 by the receipts of those already passed, at £12,757 7s. 8d., as shewn in the above estimate, and setting off on either side the Border Police, Revenue and Expenditure, estimated on one side at £3,491 5s. 0d., and actually amounting on the other to £3,255 0s. 2d., we shall have, it is true, only £25,514 15s. 4d. in the aggregate, but the reader may rest assured that the writer's calculation at £50,000 is much nearer the mark than that of His Excellency at £25,000; the receipts derived from the Customs alone during the third quarter of the year shewing a revenue of £8,000, a sum nearly equivalent to the total income of the previous six months, while the accession by immigration for the ensuing year, if the land fund of 1840, estimated at £300,000, be properly expended, insures such a corresponding increase on the other items of ordinary revenue as will in all probability not only meet the sum voted for the expenses of 1841, but liquidate the previous debt of £27,000. The following is a table of the receipts for the last quarter, ending with September, as compared with the previous six months:—

* The returns obtained from the Provincial Treasurer's department are made from 1st January to 30th June, 1810, inclusive. Those from the Custom House from 5th January to 5th July, 1840, inclusive, shewing in the first *six* months of the present year a revenue of nearly one hundred thousand pounds, being positively equal to the gross receipts of New South Wales, including land and ordinary revenues, for the year 1829, which only amounted, according to His Excellency Sir Ralph Darling's financial minute, to £102,577 14s. 2½d.; while the gross receipts of the province, as estimated for the concluding six months of the present year, display an annual revenue which *exceeds by forty-two thousand eight hundred and ninety-six pounds!* the total revenue of Van Diemen's Land for 1841! as estimated by Sir John Franklin in his financial minute bearing date "Colonial Secretary's Office, 10th July, 1840," and brought by His Excellency before the Legislative Council on the 15th August.

1st January to 30th June.	£	s.	d.	1st July to 30th September
Crown Lands	77,566	19	8	*£77,364 11 0
Depasturing Licenses.....	1,660	0	0	2,340 0 0
Timber Licenses	155	0	0	64 0 0
Assessment on Stock	734	16	8	604 1 7
Publicans' Licenses.....	660	0	0	390 0 0
Wine and Beer Licenses.....	5	0	0	0 0 0
Confectioners' ditto		10	0	4 0 0
Auctioneers' ditto	12	0	0	8 0 0
Duties on sales by auction.....	1,556	17	4	665 14 4
Fees and fines Police Melbourne.....	550	3	5	214 7 7
Ditto Geelong.....	83	2	9	42 16 6
Amount of Postage.....	267	14	2	158 19 11
Fees Commissioner Crown Lands				
Melbourne.....	10	3	6	Geelong... 50 0 0
Proceeds of sales of surplus stores				Miscell.... 30 4 0
landed from Gov. Emigrant ships	498	14	6	
Total.....	£83,761	2	0	£81,936 14 11

As relates to the expenditure of this district, it is not possible for the writer to display any very accurate account so long as it is the official custom to conceal the minutiae of disbursements. The routine of the Colonial Legislature is, to meet at a certain period of the year, distinguished as the Sessions of the Legislative Council, and taking into consideration the financial budget as previously prepared by the Auditor-General and placed before them by the Governor, to discuss the separate items as each is made the subject of a motion by the Colonial Secretary; a distinct estimate for Port Phillip is laid on the table with a few explanatory observations by His Excellency, which is passed through the Council in the same manner as other financial papers. Not one of this cabinet, however, appears to possess the slightest knowledge, or wish for knowledge, of the manner in which the sums voted are actually applied, or to investigate the reasons of the various excesses which occur and are for the first time promulgated by His Excellency on the close of the financial year; this functionary is totally independent of any guardianship or interest his councillors may wish to exercise over the monetary affairs of the people they represent; to a certain extent, indeed, he incurs a serious responsibility if he draws upon the colonial treasury for the benefit of any department or work when once the budget is closed; but then, besides the control he possesses over the unspecified items of revenue (a sum which has before now been jobbed away *ad libitum* for the support of Ministerial favorites,) the Governor at his next convention can bring forward a supplementary document, which, despite the protests and remonstrances of the independent members, can be forced through the Council by those official members, over whose votes the Ministerial Representative has unlimited control, and the sum required to supply the deficiencies of the previous year be sacrificed at the shrine of an irresponsible Government.

* In this amount the *Deposits* of the last land sale only are included, £30,000 being paid in Sydney.

The “mystification” which has been so cleverly drawn round the financial affairs of Port Phillip is increased, when we come to examine the proceeds and application of the land revenue, by the manner in which it has been appropriated to the general police expenditure of the territory. Having defrayed those items of provincial civil expenditure which are, by the unanimous consent of the Home and Colonial Legislatures chargeable to that fund, as the cost of the Aboriginal Missions and Protectorate; having supplied the deficiencies of its ordinary revenue, according to the order of the Colonial Minister in such cases made and provided, the balance ought to have been expended in the payment of immigration; but of late years the enormous and unjustifiable charge made upon the colonial revenue to defray the general police expenditure of the territory, three parts of which arises from the cost of English transported felons, has obliged the Council, in slavish obedience to the Autocrat at home, to diminish the amount of their *sacred land fund*, by a sum which might defray this iniquitous impost, and thus make up the difference between the *ordinary* income of the territory, and the excess occasioned by this *extraordinary* charge; during the period extending from October 1836 to the close of the year 1839 it has been shewn that the amount of—

Land Revenue from Port Phillip was.....	£107,576	0	0
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Upon which is chargeable excess in Expenditure for 1836, 1837 and 1838	27,146	0	0
Immigration, two ships*	7,000	0	0

Making a total of	34,146	0	0
Which deducted from	107,576	0	0

Leaves the sum of.....	73,430	0	0
------------------------	--------	---	---

The produce of our land fund to be accounted for.

Now, by reference to the financial minute of His Excellency Sir George Gipps, bearing date July 23, 1839, it will be seen 1st, that the ordinary revenue and expenditure for the year 1838 stood thus:—

Revenue	£202,579	18	7
Expenditure	257,545	12	1

Creating a debt of.....	£54,965	13	6
-------------------------	---------	----	---

On this department alone.

2nd. That the receipts on land revenue, with the costs of immigration, were calculated as follows:—

Revenue	£131,499	13	4
Immigration	108,005	15	10

Leaving only	£23,493	17	6
--------------------	---------	----	---

* David Clarke and William Metcalfe. The Hope, which arrived in January, 1838, brought in her compliment only 139 immigrants, the refuse of the Sydney Barracks, and whose removal, as it was an advantage to the Local Government, cannot fairly be charged to the district of Melbourne.

Available for such items as are chargeable to the fund land, *including* "police and gaols," the amount of which, £94,882 17 6 the following compilation will clearly develop:—

Police and Gaols*.....	£63,453	8	3
Collection and Management of Crown Revenue.....	26,781	8	8
Aborigines	4,648	0	7

Total.....	94,882	17	6
To which add excess of Ordinary Expenditure.....	54,965	13	6

Second Total.....	149,848	11	0
Deducting excess of Land Revenue.....	23,493	17	6

And the balance..... £126,354 13 6
 Gives the total excess in the gross expenditure of the year. If by the side of this be placed a similar calculation for Port Phillip, the actual sum contributed by the land fund of the province, to meet the deficiencies of the Sydney revenue for the year 1838, will be arrived at:—

Revenue, including Customs only	£6,734	0	0
Expenditure, including many items which on the Sydney side are charged to the Land Fund.....	13,717	11	7

Balance	6,983	11	7
Previous Debts of 1836 and 1837.....	11,739	10	8†

£18,723 2 3

The difference between this sum and the land revenue collected since June 1837, £50,955 17s. 9d. must, it is clear, have been appropriated to defray the excess of expenditure in the Sydney ordinary revenue, an excess too, be it particularly remembered, *originating in the presence of those convicts from whose labour we derive no equivalent.*

To use, if possible, a stronger and clearer argument than has already been cited in proving the injustice dealt to Port Phillip by maintaining the impolitic connection between this province and that government at Sydney, against which nature as well as the irreconcilable differences of social and political circumstances so forcibly appeal, it is only required to form a comparative calculation of the sums expended upon the public works of either district or town:—

* In the minute quoted this item is charged in accordance with the Minister's pleasure on the ordinary revenue; the writer, however, repugnant even to an appearance of acquiescence in so oppressive a principle, has placed it here against the land fund, or crown revenue.

† RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
1836	£329	0	0	1836	£2,164	16	8
37	2,979	0	0	37	5,879	2	5
38	6,734	0	0	38	13,717	11	7
Balance.....	£10,042	0	0		21,761	10	8
				Balance.....	10,042	0	0
				Excess.....	£11,719	10	8

Sydney—Public Works.

Year.	Amount voted.
1839.....	£85,323 14 9
1840.....	114,402 18 8
1841.....	75,538 7 10

It must be recollected that during this period, as it had been since the foundation of the Colony, extensive gangs of prisoners were also employed on the roads and Public Buildings.

Melbourne—Public—Works.

Year.	Amount voted.
1839.....	
1840.....	£15,000 0 0
1841.....	20,500 0 0

Previous to 1839 a few convicts were employed in patching up some disreputable looking sheds to serve the purpose of a police office, watch-house, hospital, convicts' and military barracks; in 1839 no buildings had been completed, because the government, in its wisdom, causing all payments to be made at Sydney, allowed the contracts in every case to be violated.

The excess which has arisen in the Sydney expenditure, or rather that portion of it incurred by the forced support of the convict police and gaol expenses, may be excused on the grounds of unwarrantable interference on the part of the Lords of the Treasury, and the evil, in consequence, shifted from the board of the Colonial to that of the Home Legislature; but beyond the amount required to defray this new item of taxation, and which, therefore, might have been with some plea of necessity, if not of justice, borrowed from the provincial land fund, every shilling appropriated to the benefit of Sydney, either on immigration or public works, has been, the writer hesitates not to assert, most wilfully misapplied. It was impossible for the Governor in Council not to be intimately acquainted with the distressing wants of Melbourne and its district in public works and in labour, loudly proclaimed as these had been in the shape of memorials from the injured inhabitants, and subject to almost daily reiteration in the local papers; yet up to the arrival of Mr. La Trobe, Melbourne *literally* had not enjoyed an expenditure of £1,000 in the shape of public works, while £100,000 per annum was commonly voted for the advancement of Sydney and its more distant counties. To the deep and lasting injury inflicted upon the commerce, trade, and rapidly developing advantages of the place, let the want of a Custom House and Wharf, the absence of piers, light-houses, and even buoys for the harbour, bear witness; the innumerable complaints made by commanders of vessels, originating in the wretched deficiencies of all the facilities of navigation and trade, *although now for the most part supplied*, have doubtless given our really admirable port and town as bad a name with the mercantile judges at home, as that under which Adelaide, in South Australia, has so greatly suffered.

In common equity to Port Phillip, where so much property was accumulating, so large a population was concentrating, and the sterling natural advantages of which were causing so much attraction, a liberal system of expenditure should rather have been adopted, as well for the benefit of the Colony at large, as on behalf of the province itself, to the resources of which in available land so much of the prospective immigration supplies were dependent.

Instead, however, of a policy dictated alike by present wants and the indications of statesmanlike foresight, the Sydney Legislature entered into a reckless course of disbursement, which seems to increase in proportion to the deficiencies of their annual income.—With so alarming an excess of expenditure staring him in the face, and which he himself remarked required “the most serious investigation,” Sir George Gipps should have forborne, while he was conscious of the wants of Port Phillip in labour and public works, to gratify the expensive demands of the penal provinces at the expense of the free. An excuse, it is true, has been offered (a miserably lame one,) for the scanty funds appropriated to the public works at Melbourne and our other settlements, in the following notable paragraph of His Excellency’s latest financial minute:—

“Public buildings are, indeed, so much wanted at Melbourne, that I should have proposed a larger sum for them than that set down in the estimate, had it not been found impossible to expend the sums already granted, without increasing in an exorbitant degree the price of labour, and thereby adding to the difficulties against which the settlers have to contend.”

The plain inference from such remark is, that having done his best to ruin the prospects of this flourishing dependency in the retention of adequate labour, he turns the deplorable state to which he has reduced the enterprise of the inhabitants into an argument for completing their downfall; it is like the man who broke a dog’s leg and left him to starve, because it was impossible for the animal any longer to hunt his prey. Truly, Sir George, such sophistry should make thy name immortal, embalming its memory in the odour of a nation’s gratitude!

The history of provincial commerce is interesting, inasmuch as in the early period at which Port Phillip began to export its own produce, together with the quantity, quality, and value of its staple products, it remains an unexampled instance in colonial records. As already stated, no sooner were the pastures and climate found suitable to the support of cattle and sheep, than these were introduced by the inhabitants of Van Diemen’s Land; on the first year, therefore, of its existence a considerable quantity of wool was sent to England, by way of the older colonial ports. At this period, besides supplying the local market for consumption, the graziers and butchers of Van Diemen’s Land import fat wethers from Port Phillip; and since the establishment of the district the neighbouring colony of South Australia has been almost entirely supplied with flocks and herds by our active inland navigators. Besides wool and a small quantity of bark to England, fat cattle and wethers are sent to Hobart Town and Launceston, a trade to which steam will presently afford vast facilities, while hides, skins, horns and fat have been, in the absence of sufficient local manufactories, also imported to the sister island. Stock has been exported even to New Zealand, and the fluctuations in the colonial provision markets keep on foot a desultory exchange and barter between Adelaide and Melbourne.

Annexed is a very full return from the Custom House, shewing

the rate and value of the shipping and commerce of the district since its commencement in 1836, to which it needs that only one observation be prefixed. Having before him such indubitable evidence of our natural advantages, our commercial importance, no impartial observer can hesitate to decide that any deficiency which a determined carper may detect, is to be traced simply and solely to the impolitic connexion between the governments of Sydney and Melbourne; and, therefore, that the sooner Australia Felix is rendered independent, the earlier will her rightful ascendancy be established:—

1836.		
10th October, 1836, to January 5th, 1837.		
Val. Exports.		Val. Imports.
£1,544.		£3,409.
Custom's Receipts.		
£329		

1837.		
Val. Exports.		Val. Imports.
£11,600.		£108,939.
Ships cleared out.		
No.		Tonnage.
104		13,424
Ships entered in.		
No.		Tonnage.
140		12,754.
Custom's Receipts.		
£2,979.		

1838.		
Val. Exports.		Val. Imports.
£18,052.		£71,060.
Ships cleared out.		
No.		Tonnage.
135		11,391.
Ships entered in.		
No.		Tonnage.
132		11,269.
Custom's Receipts.		
£6,734.		

1839.		
Val. Exports.		Val. Imports.
£138,142.		£204,722.
Ships cleared out.		
No.		Tonnage.
189		40,352.
Ships entered in.		
No.		Tonnage.
195		45,607.
Customs Receipts.		
£11,450.		

The following is a tabular return of the same nature for the first six months of the present year:—

PORT OF MELBOURNE.		
Ships cleared out.	No.	Tons.
To Great Britain	4	1,371
India	13	5,724
New Zealand	1	350
Sydney	7	3,098
Van Diemen's Land	112	13,047
South Australia	4	337
Total	141	23,927
Ships entered in.	No.	Tons.
From Great Britain	15	6,150
Van Diemen's Land	106	11,674
South Australia	10	2,564
New Zealand	2	846
Sydney	20	3,971
Total	153	25,205
*Exports.....£111,934 †Imports.....£183,094		
Custom Dues.....	£8,437	0 0
Wharfage	946	0 0
Entry and Clearance.....	219	0 0

Total receipts of Customs..... £9,602 0 0

Of wool, the great staple product of these Colonies, the amount in 1837, having been sent to the ports of Van Diemen's Land and Sydney for shipment home, cannot be accurately obtained; for the following years the returns are, in

Year.	lbs. of wool.	Value.
1838.....	715,603	£53,670
1839.....	1,327,780	99,583
Increase	612,177	£45,913

* Incredible as it may appear, it is an indisputable fact that the exports of this province for the first six months of 1840, exceed by £21,914 the total value of exports for the entire territory of New South Wales even so late as the year 1823, the period when, in a petition to the British Parliament for a Legislative Assembly, the inhabitants of that colony cited the value of their exports as a proof of their prosperity, and an argument for their immediate emancipation from the distant and ignorant control of the Home Government.

† The apparent excess in imports would be much reduced if any means existed of ascertaining the amount of capital introduced, and the value of stock imported by land.

CHAPTER VI.

SOCIAL STATE—PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS—COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE.

A VERY important feature in the social and political character of this valuable dependancy is the absence of the penal system; it is emphatically the *Free Province* of New South Wales. At the outset of its career it was determined by the Secretary of State, under the guidance of the Imperial Parliament, that the prison system which was about to be withdrawn from the older portions of the territory, should never be introduced into that portion recently settled and designated as Port Phillip. To decide upon the merits of this measure would lead to a long and unnecessary disquisition upon the transportation and assignment systems, and would oblige the reader and writer to search together the benefits derived, and the injuries received, from the presence of a local "Felonry," setting off on one side the extraordinary commercial progress of Sydney and the internal prosperity of her districts, against the general prejudice existing on the subject of penal colonies and the state of political slavery in which the free population of the country have for that reason been amerced; suffice it to say, that as the omnipotent though absent Legislature and public of Great Britain have determined that convict colonies are a step lower in the scale of social and moral greatness than the free or anti-penal, Australia Felix is at least exempt on this ground from the vituperations of ignorance and prejudice. At the same moment, however, that the writer claims the favorable consideration of Englishmen at home for the social advantages of Port Phillip, he would beg distinctly to disclaim any participation in the senseless outcry raised against the splendid colonies of Van Diemen's Land and Sydney on account of their convict character. As well indeed might France be described as a penal country in contradistinction to other European nations, because her convicts, instead of suffering transportation to "Botany Bay," are employed on the public works of that country, or imprisoned in the vast gaols erected for their reception; as well might the potentates of that hemisphere declare the French a proscribed race, and, lest the contamination of her felony should invade their own innocent lands, prohibit her further assumption of equality among the continental powers; as well, in short, might France, the "Grande Nation," whose influence in war, arts, and frivolities are acknowledged throughout the world, be stamped as *convict, penal, territorial Newgate*, &c. &c. and be degraded from all association with, or participation in, the free institutions of other countries. Britain never could have carried out her present admirable economy of transportation without the introduction of unshackled enterprise in the persons of her free emigrating subjects; and while her trea-

sury has thus been relieved of an enormous impost—her measures of inevitable failure—a daily increasing market is opened in the wilds of Australia for her manufactures, and the growth of wool for home consumption. Despite the faults which have been discovered in the operations of convict management (and which are now rightly reformed,) incalculable benefit has accrued as well to the transported felon as the transporting freeman from that system which is now turned into a handle of abuse and detraction. Australia Felix however is happily in a position to escape this outrageous slander; independent of any argument which clamour renders necessary to vindicate the social and moral position of the Australian Colonies, she invites the sensitive paupers of the British Isles to gather riches on her plains, without a dread of corruption or a fear of degeneracy. The statistics of crime, as displayed in the returns of the Court of Quarter Sessions during the years 1839 and '40, are singularly illustrative of the moral soundness of our social state. If it be possible, it is incumbent on historians to bring their assertions to the test of *numbers*; "facts based on figures" are worth all the elocution and rhetoric in the world, where these are wasted on broad assertions and insipid truisms. Subjoined, therefore, is a correct tabular return of criminal convictions before this petty court during a period of two years:—

	1839 May	1839 Aug.	1839 Nov.	1840 Feb.	1840 Apr.	1840 July	1840 Oct.
Housebreaking	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Felonies	4	7	5	1	0	0	0
Perjury	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny	1	0	0	2	0	1	4
Receiving	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Libel	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated assault ...	1	2	0	0	5	0	0
Common ditto	1	6	0	2	0	1	2
Misdemeanour	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Nuisance.....	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Killing Cattle.....	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Assault with intent ...	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
Illegal combination ...	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Totals	12	17	9	5	12	3	7*

This table of crime, which is only attainable for the last two years of consequence of the non-establishment previously of a Court of Criminal Record, presents in the total but fifty-six convictions, which are thus divided:—

1839.....	38
1840.....	27
Decrease.....	11

The population of the district, as annually estimated since its establishment, may be rated as under:—

* The convictions before the Supreme Court in Sydney during the same period were Two !!

October 1836	300
„ 1837	800
„ 1838	3000
„ 1839	8500
„ 1840	13000

By which it will be seen that taking population and crime into comparison for the year 1839 and the year 1840, the proportion will be in the first as

1 to 150,

whilst in the year 1840 it has averaged

1 to 480.

It should be observed that, in accordance with the strange policy of the Sydney Government, Port Phillip previous to 1838 was deprived of any criminal jurisdiction higher than that of magistrates at Petty Sessions, and to this date is without the benefit and protection of any civil court of judicature beyond the quarterly sessions of its Court of Requests—a system which, while it entails vast expenses upon Government in the translation of witnesses and great inconvenience to the prosecutors themselves, leaves a door open to the prevalence and increase of disorder and crime, which nothing but the firm moral and social foundation upon which the structure of the little state was built could ever have counterbalanced.

Among the most prominent features of the social state must be considered the prospects of (1) Religion, (2) Education, (3) the Press, (4) Monetary System and Public Institutions.

By a decree of the Minister for the Colonies (Lord Goderich,) the various religious associations, or churches, are placed upon perfect equality as regards their relative position with the state; each congregation, therefore, according to colonial enactments is privileged to receive a sum from the Colonial Treasury in aid of building a church and the salary of a minister. This regulation is also extended to the system of public education, where the government aid is supplied in the shape of salaries to schoolmasters. The cause of one, therefore, is generally attached to the other, seminaries being appended, under the charge of its minister, to each of the churches. The *Protestant Episcopalians* have one church, “St. James,” which, when completed, will be a handsome as well as costly stone structure; one chaplain, Rev. J. C. Grylls,* with a congregation of about fifteen hundred; the living, which is rich, consisting of a salary from Government of £200 per annum, five acres of town allotments (church reserve,) and a gift from Mr. Campbell, of Sydney, of fifty acres glebe land, is in the diocese of the Right Rev. William Broughton, Bishop of Australia, whose Episcopal See is in Sydney.

The Roman Catholics have one church (at present only a temporary wooden building,) two Priests, Rev. Fathers Geogheghan and Walsh, and a congregation of about one thousand. The church reserve is one acre. The living, which is within the

* Rev. J. Wilson now officiating for Rev. J. C. Grylls, absent on leave.

diocese of the Right Rev. Dr. Polding, Catholic Bishop of Australia, consists of a salary of £200 per annum with a residence for the clergymen.*

The Presbyterians have one church, at present occupied as School and Kirk, one minister, Rev. J. Forbes, and a congregation of nearly one thousand. Funds have been collected for the erection of a permanent place of worship, which, from its design, will prove an ornament to the town. The minister is in the receipt of a stipend from Government of £150 per annum. The Kirk has a minister's residence and a reserve of one acre. This congregation is under the Synod of New South Wales.†

The Wesleyans, constituting a congregation of seven hundred and fifty, have one chapel, a neat and commodious building, with a reserve of half an acre in the centre of the town. The Minister, Rev. J. Orton, is in the receipt of a stipend of £150 per an.

The Independants, forming a congregation of eight hundred, according to their religious principles, have hitherto declined the assistance of government; but purchasing two town allotments, have erected a handsome house of prayer, with a residence for their minister, the Rev. Mr. Waterfield, who is supported on the voluntary principle.

Besides these are to be found small bodies of Baptists, Quakers, and Jews, but not of sufficient numerical strength or monetary importance to form distinct congregations or churches for a ministerial charge.

The writer cannot allow this subject to pass away without two observations, the first of which he would particularly impress upon attention of the government, while the second he would recommend to the consideration of all parties purposing to emigrate to these colonies:—

1. If equality among all religious associations be recognised, how comes it that the Church of England falls in for a town reserve of five acres, the lease of which, at a moderate rate, would insure the incumbent an income of £1,000 a year, while no other church enjoys a gift in land of more than one acre of proportionate value? It strikes the writer that Sir Richard Bourke, when he designated that portion of the town (now claimed as *the Church Reserve*), "Church and School Reserve," he intended it for religious purposes in general, either in the way of subsequent sale and distribution to all the churches, or as ground for the erection of every church, kirk or chapel in that parish of the town.

2. The extreme harmony existing among the various religious denominations of Melbourne, and the absence of every species of congregational envy or hatred, is one of the most pleasing as it is one of the most valuable features in our social state.

Respecting Education, which it was observed is connected with the cause of Religion, it may be noted that a Proprietary College on the principles of that established at Calcutta, and known as the Martiniere, has been projected, and seems likely to meet with

* A Papist Priest is daily expected at Geelong.

† There is a Presbyterian Church and Minister at Geelong.

deserved success. Sunday and day schools are attached to the English, Scotch and Roman Catholic churches, of which the second is the most ably and economically conducted, while several private seminaries for the education of children of both sexes enrich the social state of this district.

The Press has, as in all other colonies where the government of the country is so irresponsible and unpopular, and the political freedom of the subject so restricted, a powerful influence; it is *naturally* as well as *faithfully* the index of popular opinion, the vehicle of public power. It is the only engine which remains unshackled by local constitutions, and exercises, therefore a, most wholesome control over government agents; while at Melbourne, where the paucity of material and price of labour throw insuperable difficulties in the way of periodical literature, the newspaper Press, in supplying the tone and interest of this branch of art, has been successful in preserving the various links which give consistency to the social and moral state of a community. The following is a table of the strength of the district in this line:—

1. P. P. Patriot, April, *1838—Monday and Thursday.
2. P. P. Gazette, October, 1838—Wednesday and Saturday.
3. P. P. Herald, January, 1840—Tuesday and Friday.
4. Geelong Advertiser, Oct. 1840—Saturday.
5. Portland Bay Gazette (in prospective.)

Thus we have in Melbourne three Journals, publishing twice a week, and by their arrangements affording the inhabitants a daily paper; one at Geelong, and one expected at Portland, where their publication as advertising media alone must make them no mean agents in developing the advantages of these important districts of the province. Small literary pamphlets, chiefly lectures delivered at the Mechanics' Institution, occasionally issue from the local press; and the close of the year 1840 will see, in addition to the present work, the production of an annual by Mr. Kerr, and two or three sheet almanacks compiled for Port Phillip.

The formation of Societies and Institutions for public purposes, whether with religious or worldly views, are generally considered indicative of a refined stage of the social state. The community of Melbourne has been for some period in the enjoyment of these co-operative bonds of union; and although the creation of some may be thought premature, in relation to the small population and the ease with which every man may singly work his way among the numerous and extensive means and appliances at his hand, yet the revival in a wild country of those associations which form so important a feature in the social state of the parent country, serves to keep unbroken that link between Britain and the colonies upon which her impolitic government is making such repeated and violent assaults. We may distinguish the various Public Institutions into the Moral, the Social, the Mercantile, and the Monetary.

Of the first the accompanying list will shew the number, description, date of formation, and other matters of interest:—

* The numerals in this column are intended to denote the year of establishment.

1. **BIBLE SOCIETY**—Established in June, 1840, as an auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and is under the management of a patron, committee and secretary.

2. **TEMPERANCE SOCIETY**—Established in 1838, under a committee of management and secretary, has monthly meetings and quarterly lectures.

3. **WESLEYAN MISSION AUXILIARY SOCIETY**—Date of formation 1839; intended to act as an aid to the mission of this church established in the district of Geelong for the conversion of the aboriginal natives.

SOCIAL.

1. **MASONIC LODGE OF AUSTRALIA FELIX**, under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Australia in Sydney; established 1840.

2. **UNION BENEFIT SOCIETY**, created in 1839. A charitable institution for the support of the aged and sick among the working classes, the burial of deceased members or their wives; with a patron, president, secretary, treasurer, committee of management, and other officers.

3. **MELBOURNE CLUB**, on the principles of the London Clubs, established November, 1838; the officers are a president, secretary and committee.

4. **PORT PHILLIP CLUB**—Similar to its predecessor; projected in August, 1840.

5. **LODGE OF ODD FELLOWS**—Projected September, 1840 but not yet confirmed.

6. **PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA FELIX**—Formed in 1840, upon the plan of, and in correspondence with the Great Highland Agricultural Society at home, with a view of encouraging improvements in all branches of natural productions, but especially such as are connected with the growth of grain, culture of wool, and rearing of stock.

7. **MECHANICS INSTITUTION AND SCHOOL OF ARTS**—Founded in 1839, with a view of disseminating matters of useful knowledge among all classes, but particularly the operatives of the place. It has attached to it a library and museum; certain months of the year are appointed to the delivery of lectures on literary and scientific subjects. Both this and the foregoing Society have the usual corps of efficient officers.

Besides these are Clubs established for the purposes more strictly of amusement and sport, such as for Cricket, Races, Billiards, Regattas, &c., but are usually formed and dissolved according to the season most appropriate to their objects.

MERCANTILE.

1. **FIRE AND MARINE ASSURANCE COMPANY**—Established in 1839, with a capital of fifty thousand pounds, in one thousand shares of fifty pounds each, on which an instalment of £2 10s. has been paid, under covenant to be reserved for three years and employed in effecting fire and marine policies, or in discounting bills and notes of exchange for the emolument of the shareholders; at which time it is expected, from the periodical reports of the company, that a dividend of thirty per cent per annum will be declared.

2. **MELBOURNE AUCTION COMPANY**—Established in 1840, under the control of twenty-four directors; it transacts all the business of an auctioneer on a very extensive scale, and has proved not only a great security in the sale of property but has afforded facilities for the circulation and realization of money which only a company could have effected. The Auction Company discounts and guarantees bills of exchange given as payment for goods or land previously passed through their hands, and the profits increasing in proportion to the risk, raise the value of stock to a more than ordinary degree, 20 per cent being freely given upon the first instalment of £1 per share. The capital is twenty thousand pounds, in two thousand shares of ten pounds each share, on which 30s. in two instalments is all that has yet been called for, while the first half yearly dividend is reported to yield forty per cent.

3. **STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY**—Started in 1839, and expected to commence operations at the close of the present year, when a boat of forty horse power will be running on the Yarra Yarra between the Port and Melbourne, with occasional trips to Geelong; this arrangement, which is to be considered as the nucleus of the Company's traffic, will be extended with additional vessels, as inducements may offer, to Launceston, Portland Bay, Western Port, and Sydney. Capital, forty thousand pounds, in two thousand shares of forty pounds each, upon which about ten pounds per share has been paid up. There is little doubt that this investment of capital will become as lucrative to the shareholders as it is beneficial to the district.

4. **YARRA YARRA BRIDGE COMPANY** was formed in 1839, with a view of aiding the communication between the banks of the river by the erection of a Bridge across the river which runs through Melbourne. Orders have been sent to England for the construction of an iron edifice combining all the latest improvements with elegance of plan and durability of make. In the mean time a temporary floating bridge is in use. This Company is protected by a chartered monopoly for twenty years, and the investment is worth fifty per cent per annum. The capital consists of £5,000, in 500 shares of £10 each share, upon which the small instalment of ten shillings per share is all that has yet been called for, and is to be considered more as a security between the shareholders for the ultimate completion of their plan, than a supply for the liquidation of expenses incurred. That this will prove a highly useful as well as ornamental improvement to the locality, none who are acquainted with the history, past and present, of Melbourne, and the extreme necessity occasioned by conspiring circumstances for some permanent accommodation of this nature, will feel disposed to deny. Should the bridge arrive at the date to which the contractor has bound himself to import it, Melbourne will claim the honor of erecting both the first iron and the first suspension bridge in the Colonies!*

* For various points of information connected with the local transactions of these Companies, the reader is referred either to the advertisements appended to this work by the Directors, or the note in the supplement which contains all the items of information useful to a resident.

MONETARY.

1. **PORT PHILLIP BANK**—Established in 1838, upon a capital of one hundred and twenty thousand pounds, in three thousand shares of forty pounds each share; the paid up capital is at present about fifty thousand pounds, and the first half-yearly dividend amounted to twelve and a half per cent. At a recent meeting it was determined to extend the shares and form an office in London. This Bank has a branch at Geelong, and holds out every prospect of certain and profitable means of investment.

2. **BANK OF AUSTRALASIA**—Has a branch at Melbourne under a managing director, whose returns of interest to the general stock have been greater than that of any other branch of the same establishment.

3. **UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA** has also a branch at Melbourne, to which the same remark applies as to the former. The deposits of these Banks average from one hundred to one hundred and fifty thousand pounds each.

In seeking to display the comparative advantages of Australia Felix, the writer's attention is naturally drawn to two primary considerations:

First—The colonies to be compared with this.

Second—The nature of the comparison to be made with the various points or parts of that comparison.

Now, respecting the former, it appears most feasible and fair to draw the line between Port Phillip and such provinces as, by their age, population, political character and commerce, present the nearest assimilation to each other in point of general position. It will be proper, then, to confine the comparison in the first instance to South Australia and Western Australia. The government, it should be observed, of these two colonies is widely different to that of Port Phillip; both are independent colonies, governed by a Representative of the Crown and Legislative Council of their own, from which circumstances manifest advantages are to be derived.—But in the case of South Australia, although an importation of labour was effected at the very outset by means of a loan upon the prospective land fund, while the patronage of the Parliament, the mercantile world and the Press were all in favor of the new province, yet, from the accumulation of capital without the means of *really profitable* investment, such as sheep and cattle, by the increase and wool of which Australia Felix has so greatly prospered, this favored offshoot of the British Empire falls far short of the younger scion in those matters which indicate most clearly the state of a nation's commercial and internal prosperity.

In Western Australia, besides the deplorable mistake of investing money in land without either the means, desire, or knowledge of cultivation which the *true friends* of South Australia have had so much reason to regret, the waste territory that under a judicious system of sale might have been made to yield a productive immigration fund, was wasted in enormous free grants, whose rich alluvial acres are lying useless for want of both stock *and* labour.

The annexed table will give the results of a statistical comparison

between Australia Felix and South Australia, in revenue and commerce, during the first six months of 1840:—

<i>Adelaide.</i>	<i>Melbourne.</i>
Population.	Population.
13,240	12,850
Imports.	Imports.
£180,000	£183,000
Entered in.	Entered in.
Ships, 104; tonnage, 19,939.	Ships, 153; tonnage, 25,205.
Exports.	Exports.
£30,000	£111,964
lbs. of wool exported.	lbs. of wool exported.
214,000	1,327,780
Number of sheep.	Number of sheep.
180,000	454,640
Ditto of cattle.	Ditto of cattle.
14,800	35,000
Revenue.	Revenue.
£14,742 7s. 5d.	£16,012 7s. 10d.

Thus we see that while the population and consumption of British merchandize in the two provinces, is nearly equal the balance in favour of Australia Felix in the value of exports, is £81,964, or as 4 to 1; that the ships entered into the port of Melbourne, exceed by 51, the number entered into the port of Adelaide, the difference in burthen being 5,960 tons; that our export in wool is greater by 1,113,780 lbs.!!! that the number of sheep are as 3 to 1, of cattle as 2 to 1, in favor of this province, and finally that the ordinary revenue which in Adelaide is applied only to defray the civil expenses of the government, and in Melbourne has to meet the cost also of public works, produces a larger sum by £1,720 in Port Phillip than at South Australia. Great however as is our superiority over South Australia, the comparison is still more striking when carried out between this province and the colony of Swan River.

In 1839 the receipts from land revenue were in—

Western Australia.....	£1,487 15 8
Australia Felix	37,897 5 10
Difference.....	£36,210 10 2

The ordinary revenue of the Settlement of Swan River for the quarter ending 31st March, as compared with that of Melbourne for the corresponding quarter in the year 1839, shows the annexed result:—

<i>Swan River.</i>				<i>Melbourne.</i>			
Custom dues	£408	0	0	Custom dues	£3400	0	0
Publicans' licenses...	514	0	0	Publicans' licenses	680	0	0
Fees and fines.....	12	0	0	Fees and fines	300	0	0
				Auction duty & licen.	80	0	0
	£929	0	0	Post Office.....	90	0	0
Which, multiplied by 4, will give nearly £4,000 a year, or an annual revenue not equal to the income of one quarter in Port Phillip.					£4,550	0	0

The comparative dates of settlement give South Australia an advantage of 2 years, and Western Australia Ten!

The last comparison we shall draw is between the results of Melbourne in 1839, and Sydney in 1828, the period when the inhabitants first began to clamour about Legislative Assemblies:—

<i>Sydney.</i>		<i>Melbourne.</i>	
Population.	36,598	Population.	12,850
Revenue.	£122,722	Revenue.	£51,347 5s. 10d.
Imports.	£570,000	Imports.	£204,722
Exports.	£90,050	Exports.	£138,142
Entered Inwards.		Entered Inwards.	
Ships, 137:—tons 32,559.		Ships, 195:—tons 45,607.	

By this we find that Melbourne having been established two years and Sydney forty! the exports of the former exceeded those of the latter by £48,092., while the difference of shipping in favor of this port was 58, and of tonnage 5,048.

CHAPTER VII.

ABORIGINES—PROTECTORATE—WESLEYAN MISSION, &c.

IN entering upon this subject it may be prefaced that it involves so many questions, as well as facts, of interest to the intelligent reader of every class, but especially, as regards their political position, to the settler, that a volume might well be appropriated to its consideration; the writer's present limits, however, oblige him (at the same time that he thus expresses his opinion upon the favorable reception such a work would meet with, and his desire to see its production,) to compress his remarks into as small a compass as may bear a fair relative proportion to the space afforded to other topics in the present volume. It will be allowed, therefore, to examine first, their natural position, including in that part of the research a rapid sketch of their numbers, the districts they occupy, their habits, language and customs; secondly, their moral and political position, which will naturally embrace some remarks upon the principles and operations of the Protectorate and Wesleyan Mission. With respect to the aboriginal tribes, their numerical force, and the extent of country occupied by each, the following memoranda, communicated by the Chief Protector, will supply the most accurate and copious details:—

"The districts of the Protectorate are—1. Geelong or Western District, embracing the whole of the country, bounded on the south, by the coast extending from Indented Head to the Glenelg or boundary of the South Australian Province; on the north by a line running from a point twenty miles north of Melbourne to "Nurniyong" the Mount Blackwood of Mitchell, thence to Mount Cole, Mount William and the Glenelg; the west bounded by the South Australian Province. The assistant Protector of this District, C. W. Seivwright, Esq., J.P.

"REMARKS.—The ten square miles of country, for the homestead and agricultural establishment for the exclusive benefit and advantage of the Aboriginal Natives of this district is at present undetermined, when selected, it will be about one hundred and eighty miles from Melbourne.

"2.—Mount Macedon or North Western District, is bounded on the south by the District of Geelong; on the west by the boundary of the South Australian Province; on the east by a line running north from Tarerewait or Mount Macedon; the northern line undefined. The Assistant Protector of this District, E. S. Parker, Esq., J.P.

"REMARKS.—The reserve of land for the homestead, &c., &c., of this district is on the Loddon River, eighty miles from Melbourne.

"3.—Goulburn River District; bounded on the south by the Australian Alps; on the west by the boundary of the Mount Macedon district; northern and eastern boundaries undefined. The Assistant Protector of this district, W. Le Souef, Esq., J.P.

"REMARKS.—The reserve of land for the homestead, &c., &c., of this district, is on the Goulburn River, below the old crossing place, about one hundred and ten miles from Melbourne.

"4.—Western Port or Melbourne District; bounded on the south by the Coast from point Nepean eastward; on the north by the Australian Alps; on

the west by the bay of Port Phillip; the eastern boundary undefined. The Assistant Protector of this District, W. Thomas, Esq., J.P.

"REMARKS.—The reserve of land for the homestead, &c., &c., is at Narre-Narre-Warren, near the Corrawarrabil range, about twenty three miles east of Melbourne.

"The homesteads for the Assistant Protectors are intended to serve as centres of operations for their districts, and as asylums for such of the Aboriginal Natives as are disposed to settle. Agricultural operations are to be carried on at these stations for the exclusive benefit and advantage of the natives. Those who are able are expected to give an equivalent for what they receive, the sick and aged, and young children are to be rationed.

"A dray with six working oxen, a plough, harrow, spades and other requisites have been furnished for the use of the agricultural establishments likewise two government men. These supplies are distinct from the Assistant Protectors travelling equipment, which consists of a cart, two men, tents, &c.

"These establishments are not in any way to interfere with the itinerating duties of the Assistant Protectors, but on the contrary render their services in this respect more efficient; they are to travel among and sojourn with the Native Tribes, and by every possible means in their power to endeavour to induce them to a settled mode of existence. A Missionary is to be appointed to each establishment, and a free overseer to superintend the agricultural operations, a free constable also to aid the Assistant Protectors in the discharge of their magisterial functions. In the preceeding arrangements there is nothing new, they were originally intended by the government, and advertised in the Secretary of State's Despatch, and were to be entered upon as soon as the Assistant Protectors were in a fit position to act, and qualified to recommend suitable localities, it was with this view and to carry out these designs, that the Chief Protector addressed an instruction to each of his Assistants, in April 1839, calling upon them to furnish certain statistical and other information connected with the Native Tribes of their respective Districts, of which the following is a copy furnished at the writer's request.

"Chief Protectors' Office,
Melbourne, 1st April.

Sir,—With reference to my communication of the 21st ultimo, I beg to acquaint you that the district of _____ has been assigned as the scene of your future operations, and that definite instructions will be forwarded for your guidance as soon as the intentions of the government are known in reference to this department. I have therefore to request that you will proceed to your station with the least possible delay, and transmit to this office until further instructed, a journal of your proceedings at least once in every three months. A complete census also of the Aboriginal population, distinguishing the number of each family, with the age, name, and sex, as also the tribe to which they belong, the principle persons of each tribe, whether, warrior, councillor, elder, or otherwise, also the boundaries and Aboriginal names of districts occupied by each tribe, the Aboriginal names of mountains, lakes, rivers, and other localities, the difference of language, customs and habits of each tribe with their political relation, whether of amity, or hostility, and any other information bearing upon the before mentioned subjects, which will be desirable to communicate.

I have the honor to be, sir

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed,)

G. A. ROBINSON,

Chief Protector.

NOTE.—The Chief Protector receives a salary of five hundred pounds per annum, out of which he has to provide his Horses, travelling equipments, and attendants, he is expected to travel from the River Glenelg to the Hume, or Murrumbidgee if necessary, and also to conduct the whole correspondence of the department. The salary to each Assistant Protector, is two hundred and fifty pounds per annum, with an allowance of ten shillings and sixpence per diem, as commutation for forage and rations.

In accordance with this dispatch the Assistant Protectors have been engaged, while resident at their stations or itinerating with the natives, in obtaining and endeavouring to furnish the re-

turns required, but the want of facility in mastering the language, whether originating in perverseness or incapability of mind, (the public have long since attributed the fact to an unhappy combination of both qualities,) has thrown the acquisition of the required intelligence upon Mr. Robinson, whose notes during hasty journeys empower the writer to enter generally upon a description of the points in demand.

The first, or Geelong district, comprises about one thousand native inhabitants, in ten or twelve separate sections, the principal tribes being the Wot-tow-rong, the Co-lai-jin, and the Manmeet. It appears by the observations of the Chief Protector that there are more distinct dialects spoken in this division of the country than in any other; next to the inhabitants of the Goulburn district to be presently described, they are also the most warlike race. In the neighbourhood of Geelong the collisions between the natives and the settlers were of an early date, two shepherds having been speared there in the first months of the settlement; the loss also of Mr. Gellibrand and his companion, Mr. Hesse, so much and so long deplored, has been attributed to their animosity, some individuals having avowed a knowledge of their murder, while the total absence of all traces of the unfortunate travellers, their horses or their clothes, convey sufficient evidence to Europeans of their unhappy end. The establishment and labours of the Wesleyan Mission in that locality have been the means of softening, it would seem, the immediate occupants, or of holding a wholesome control over the most savage of the Chiefs. About Buninyong, at Portland Bay, and on the Wannon and Glenelg, depredations are still of frequent occurrence; affrays have taken place which wreaked dreadful retaliation on the blacks, and that must (if these continue,) end in the destruction of the aborigines.

2. The Mount Macedon district, which runs on a parallel north of the former, and may be said to be bounded by the river Murray, has its western extreme much less thinly populated than the eastern, the result of a natural difference in soil and climate, the one, particularly as it approaches the South Australian boundary, merging fast into a desert, the other possessing the open forest ranges of the Pyrenees, abounding with game and watered by the Loden and Yarraine rivers; these advantages, in preserving the aboriginal population from the extreme wants which are elsewhere often experienced, seem to have superinduced a love of peaceable habits; the aggressions which have been complained of by the settlers on the Loden are attributed by Mr. Robinson to the mischievous interference and instigation of some Goulburn natives.—The Da-dow-rong, Wil-ang-woon, and other tribes inhabiting this section do not compose a population of more than three or four hundred, according to the present state of information regarding their numbers.

3. In the Goulburn River district the Chief Protector considers that one thousand natives, in four or five tribes, might be communicated with; one tribe alone, the Dan-go-rang, whose names, age, and sex were returned by the Assistant Protector of the dis-

trict, possessing two hundred and seventy-three members, a much larger number than is usually found in one tribe. The section of country defined under this title is, from the peculiar circumstances and position of its black inhabitants, both the most important and interesting when viewed in relation to the labours of the Protectorate; its known extent is great, and how far subsequent operations may connect it with inland discovery and acquaintance with the tribes of the distant interior, it is difficult to define. The fact of its principal river being an important tributary of the Murray and this forming a chain of communication with the Murrumbidgee, the Lachlan, the Darling, and the immense space of country watered by these rivers, insure its permanent occupation by its aboriginal inhabitants, as those lands are far less available to the exterminating progress of the white man than the more fertile districts of Gipps' Land and the Glenelg. At the same time, however, that these circumstances are highly favorable to the operations of any Mission where zeal is shewn in performing the objects intended to be accomplished by the establishment of the Protectorate; they are, in the present unadvanced and dilatory progress of this department, conducive to extended and frequent collision; life and property having suffered to a most serious degree from the treachery and violence of the black depredators; to such a length, indeed, had their acts been carried, and so great were the complaints of the suffering Europeans, that His Excellency, as much to place a check upon their unlawful actions as to save them from the fearful consequences of exasperated revenge on the part of the settlers, sent a force of mounted troopers under a field officer, whose commission authorised the capture and detention of any number of the blacks as hostages for the rest; having pursued or rather followed them to the neighbourhood of Melbourne, Major Lettsom forming a junction with the troops and police force stationed there, succeeded in surrounding and making prisoners of the most troublesome and daring of the tribes; of thirty-three detained in custody, however, it was found impossible to identify any as participators in particular robberies or murders. With the exception, therefore, of lenient punishments upon a few and the general example shewn to the rest, little impression has been made upon this warlike and savage tribe.

4. The Western Port district, which has lately been enlarged by attaching to it the lately discovered territory of Gipps' Land, has been, by its position on the coast between Port Phillip and Western Port, longest in communication with Europeans; it is for that reason that its inhabitants are fewer and more civilized. The population of the Wa-ver-ong and Bon-gar-ong tribes, frequenting the more settled portions around Melbourne and extending to Mount Macedon, the Goulburn Ranges, and the eastern coast of the Bay, does not enumerate more than two hundred and sixty individuals. They have for some years past been disappearing through the various causes arising in the increase of the white population, beginning with the abduction of their women by the sealers at Western Port, and ending with the collisions be-

tween themselves and the settlers; before the final settlement, however, of Australia Felix, it seems, from the information collected by the Chief Protector, that the tribes round Western Port had long suffered by the incursions of their more martial neighbours on that part of the coast country now distinguished as Gipps' Land. Of one section, indeed, of the Bon-ga-rong tribe, formerly numerous about the harbour of Western Port, only two or three members are now alive. In the Bar-bur-an-tan-dil and other tribes of Gipps' Land Mr. Robinson estimates that there may be five or six hundred members.

Of the language of the aboriginal natives it may be recorded as a general observation that the dialects are as numerous as the tribes themselves, some difference having been perceived even in the sections of the same tribe, although the construction of the verbals—general to all—denote their common origin. The same holds good with many of their customs, and their physiological characteristics form connecting links sufficiently indicative of the great bond of relationship existing throughout the savage races of this continent. As a familiar illustration of these premises it has been long ascertained that the natives of every part of the country use the word "cooe" in calling to one another, with that peculiar long shrill intonation which appears unattainable by the European powers of utterance. Every dialect also abounds in vowels and liquids, the sound of the language being soft and labial; the sound of all the European letters has been distinguished with the exception of S and Q; the nearest approach to which appears in the word "Cwombi," usually pronounced by Europeans as "Quomby." Again, the strange wild dance of the aborigines, known as the Cor-rob-erie or Aramilly, used alike on mystic, festive, and martial occasions, has been found every where and at all times in practise among the black inhabitants of Australia. They are of a dark repulsive appearance, very dirty, having little or no ingenuity even in manufactures of the most primitive nature, although possessed of keen properties in sight and hearing, with a considerable share of courage, presence of mind, and endurance in the chase and in war. It is said that the inhabitants of the recently occupied southern coast including the settlements of Adelaide and Port Phillip, exceed greatly the older tribes, especially those of Van Diemen's Land, as well in comeliness of appearance as in the simple arts existing among them. Indeed, the men in the formation of their hunting spears and weapons of war, the women in making cloaks of skins, necklaces from short pieces of hollow reed, and baskets of kangaroo grass, show some superiority both in skill & taste; but taking them in comparison with the New Zealanders or other foreign savages, the natives of Australia can only be placed in the great animal family as one degree above the brute creation. They are at times tractable, generous, and peaceable, shewing an aptitude for acquiring knowledge truly surprising—but with all these good qualities there are those restless, treacherous, and vindictive feelings that mark too strongly the savage disposition of whatever country to be eradicated in one or even two generations. The men

are far more comely than the females, who, except at a very tender age and in few examples, are withered and decrepid to a disgusting degree, presenting as close a resemblance to a she baboon or ourang outang as it is possible for a human being to assume, either in the course of nature or by imitation. The kangaroo is chased with dogs, and either struck down or lanced. The Emu is taken by a stratagem of concealing the person in the bushy part of a tree, and decoying the animal by an imitative call to within a practicable distance for the launching of a spear. It is in hunting the wombat and opossum, that they display their power of sight and hearing to the greatest advantage; they will trace the burrow of the first for many roods over the ground, and by sounding the earth, open its lair at the very spot in which the animal has taken refuge; the slightest scratch of an opossum's claw on the bark of a tree, or the smallest fragment of its fur betrays to the savage, the track of his prey in the forest, and the nimbleness with which he mounts a tree, by cutting notches in its trunk with his rude hatchet, the quickness with which he dislodges them from the nest, by means of the same rough instrument is as curious as it is interesting.

Their general form of government appears to be that of chieftainship, arising from individual bravery; a male of one tribe, but in very rare instances having been found as the leader of another, the greatest jealousy usually existing with regard to any interference of strangers upon either the hunting grounds or the families of local tribes; some laws exist for regulating the actions of younger men in their relation to the elders of the tribe, the flesh of the Emu and Kangaroo being prohibited to the former, and marriage interdicted until the ceremony of extracting a certain tooth at a certain age has been performed. Their ideas of religion still remain to be ascertained, some denying their knowledge of superior beings, or a future state, others admitting these to be at best but vague and difficult to understand. Mr. Robinson asserts that the natives of Port Phillip fear and worship a superior being whose character however is clothed in qualities rather to be feared than trusted to, and that ceremonies are performed of a secret and mystic nature connected with this belief. The blacks have indubitably some crude notions of a judicial government, which is occasionally developed in the punishments unanimously awarded to a transgressing individual, the most common form this retributive justice takes, is the exposure of an offender to the tortures of spearing with only a small shield to ward off the blows inflicted in rotation by each member of his tribe. The women as in most savage nations are considered as beasts of burthen, great restrictions are placed upon their movements, and none are allowed to participate in either the festivities or ceremonies of the men. The craft of superior intellects finds a field (as it has in the dark ages of all nations,) in the profession of medicine and religion; the doctor of the tribe is generally looked up to with great respect, and a deference in some instance paid to his quackery, which it is equally singular, that the one should maintain, and the other con-

tinue to yield for the attempts at the wonderful perpetrated by some of these primitive magicians are so palpable and absurd, as to render it an impossibility that the practiser could deceive himself, however his admiring brethren might be glamourised by his arts. They have no records either graven or traditional, and their memories fail them as soon as old age creeps on. There is no doubt that the lives of infants are often taken, and the bodies converted into food. Dr. Thomson having sent a perfect specimen of a baked child to the museum in Edinburgh, found by himself in a native camp near Melbourne; some suspicion is moreover entertained of the prevalence of cannibalism in the cases of vanquished or captured enemies. Their dress is the unadorned ugliness of nature, although opossum cloaks or rugs are used as a protection against inclemencies of weather. The men puncture their skins, or rather flesh in large scars and weals, painting themselves on particular occasions, or tricking their hair with emu and cockatoo feathers; they have no instrument of music, and all their actions whether in rest or in motion, their manners whether of amity or hostility, love, grief and rage, partake of a strong animal development, and appear to be instigated by little more than mere animal instincts, propensities and desire.

The political position of the aborigines is in itself a most intricate question, shewing as many anomalies in its character, as any other piece of machinery in the colonial government; it is one also that would lead to so much opposing discussion, that it could not well be explained or investigated under several chapters; a relation therefore of facts concerning their treatment and management, with a brief comment upon the broadest points that rise during the course of description, is all the author may now venture on.

The Protectorate as already shewn by the document furnished by the head of that department, consists of a principal and four assistants, the duty of the chief being to survey and direct the practical operations of his subordinates, the theory of the system being supplied partly by the wisdom of an absent Minister, under the clamours of warm but mistaken enthusiasts in Great Britain, and otherwise by the enactments of the colonial government. The functions of the Sub-Protectors combine the magisterial, with the ministerial and educational.

They are to civilize and instruct, to moralize and protect; and with a view both to lighten their own labours, and strengthen their connection with the natives by the force of example, the gentlemen selected for the office, were married men with families. Mr. Robinson's success among the aborigines of Van Diemen's Land pointed him out as the person best fitted to superintend this mission, and his experience was also unfortunately considered sufficient to render the whole immediately effective. We say unfortunately, because, from the delay consequent on their ignorance of the language, their unfitness for the task from incumbrance of family and previous occupation, the good effected will be in no

way adequate to the great expenditure of money and lapse of time. The writer is even inclined to go a step further, and assert that nothing but injury has hitherto been the result of this establishment, and for which he accounts in the following manner: The white population, who, since the settlement of the district, had in the face of repeated acts of hostility from the natives, endeavoured to cherish a reciprocal feeling of confidence and assistance, were naturally enough nettled at the idea of the British government not only creating a department under the invidious title of *Black Protectorate*, when they felt that *protection* should more justly have been extended to themselves, but charging its cost to a local revenue, gathered from local enterprise, when their settlement in the country had been encouraged by the Home Government, chiefly through the promise of applying that very revenue to the importation of immigrants to enable them to cultivate that ground for which they had paid so highly. This feeling, upon finding expression, was personalized by the Assistant Protectors, and, with a deplorable weakness of mind, was resented by them in a manner the most injudicious and reprehensible. It was their custom in conversing with the aborigines to exalt their relative situations with the blacks as their *Protectors* by a disparagement of their white brethren, describing these last as men whose actions had inflicted incalculable injuries on the natives, and whose desire was to accomplish their extermination: the mutual distrust and jealousy thus excited was increased on the one hand by the cool reception given to any officer of the department in his tour throughout the country—on the other by the espionage established over the servants of the settlers. When to such inauspicious commencements are added the total unfitness of the gentlemen themselves to meet the privations of the bush, the constant demand for activity and motion, the urgency of acquiring the native language, aggravated as these impediments were by anxiety on account of their families; it is not to be wondered at that the scheme should have proved both unpopular and unsuccessful. A year of wavering unsatisfactory conduct having passed, subsequent to their arrival, the Protectorate was at last fairly set in motion; in six months one gentleman resigned, totally incapable of pursuing the duties required, and although retaining all the zeal in the cause of his late friends, he denounces the work as inefficient, and the office as thankless. Twelve months have elapsed—the blacks are farther from morality and civilization and nearer to destruction, from the anger they have themselves excited though their repeated aggressions; latterly reserves for the exclusive use of the native tribes have been adopted, how far these may answer in forwarding civilization and assisting the moral government of the Protectors, it remains for time to develop; but the writer ventures to foretell, that unless coercion be used in retaining the tribes of each district within the limits of the respective reserves, this scheme will also prove a *failure*. In short, anxious enquiry and some experience has fully satisfied the author in his creed, that—

First.—Only a systematic separation of the children from their parents can ever promote the chance of a civil and religious edu-

cation which must in itself be founded *upon habits of industry*, to bring forth fruit, either in youth or manhood.

Second.—That collision and extermination can only be prevented by confining the natives in the reserves appropriated for their use, rationing the sick, aged and infants, and leaving the adults to subsist by hunting or labour on the agricultural parts of the establishments.

To effect the first, the youth from the ages of ten to fifteen should be carried to Sydney or Melbourne or any town *beyond* the reach of their parents and tribe, where having received an education at once simple and impressive, they should be bound apprentices to artificers, (blacksmiths, masons, &c.,) care being taken of their proper disposal, under sober and moral masters, until fit to work for themselves; the care however of the government must not cease here; it must, *for the first generation at least*, extend through the chief actions of life, such as marriage, change of occupation, &c., while a few might, *but with great caution*, be trusted to return to their reserves, as an example and a comfort to the elders, and perhaps where seriousness of character predominated as assistants to the missionaries.

As regards the second proposition it is suggested that to render the habit of restraint less irksome, and to insure a supply of wild animals for the chase and subsistence, the reserves may be thrice as large as at present intended, covering twenty instead of five square miles, or if various tribes are inimical to each other, and dangerous results are expected from their approximation, let several reserves of proportionate extent be chosen.

Finally if as has been before objected, such procedure is at variance with English Law, the Freedom and Rights of the subject, (the natives are proclaimed subjects to the British Crown,) let an act of Parliament be passed to legalize the measure, and then will the Legislature prove that they are determined in fact as well as in theory to civilize and protect the aboriginal races, justice be performed and peace restored. The white subject will not voluntarily cede the revenue unless its entire control is in his own hands, but he cannot object to the alienation of the land when applied to the maintenance of a people whose priority of proprietorship is on all sides acknowledged. The Wesleyan Mission which was in operation before the establishment of the Protectorate has been at once more popular and more successful, the latter result in a great measure being, as the reader will have judged from the foregoing remarks, dependant upon the former. The Missionaries were men who came disinterestedly without a show of authority or a chance of remuneration. They receive government aid in a ratio equal to that supplied by their own church, making in the total a fund of about £1000, but which has been appropriated solely to forming an establishment on the reserve allotted to them in the county of Grant, and to the supply of food and clothing for the aborigines, immediately in connection with their establishment. The allowance of each member of the mission is £40 per annum for the purchase of clothes and books; under such circumstances it must be evident that zeal can be the

only actuating motive, while the retired nature of their stations, the modest fulfilment of their duties, has rendered them respected and efficient. The third department related to the management of the aborigines is the Border Police, raised after long and repeated applications from the settlers, for protection against their black depredators; it consists of an officer and a small corps of mounted troopers, whose numerical strength would be of little avail in an actual struggle against a large force of blacks, while their distance and dispersion renders the chance of such an event extremely hypothetical. It has been proposed to raise a body of native police for the assistance of the Deputy Protectors, and as a scheme to employ the adults upon whom education would be only cast away, it is deserving of every encouragement.

CHAPTER VIII.

As might have been anticipated from the title page, it was intended to confine the gist of this chapter to the communication of matters of interest, information, and advice to immigrants alone, or that portion of our readers who, having passed the rubicon, are now pausing to consider the best and most expeditious mode of future operations, leaving emigrants or the other class of readers, who are still considering the policy of trusting themselves to the opposite shore, to glean their knowledge from colonial agents and writers in England; for this the author had a reason, which, as it is simple and short, will not occupy much time in the relation. There are many things described and discussed herein, the prolix detail of which only a resident can feel sufficiently connected with to enjoy; such are the statistics of geography with the minutiae of rivers, lakes, and mountains, and such also may be considered many of the details of early history. Without a person can in imagination *locate* himself at Melbourne, he will not take an interest either in the physical or historical features of the province, but these to any one lately arrived, when found to be topics of daily conversation among the colonists with whom his lot is cast, will become objects of anxious and repeated enquiry. The immigrant, therefore, having read this work through, will expect advice as to the various roads to competence and wealth opening before him. For advice relative to the trials he has already experienced or conduct in affairs over which he has now no control, he cannot be expected to be thankful. As there are, however, a few points on which advice to an intending emigrant would be of more than usual importance, a small space may be allotted them without infringing on the rights of the "bona fide settler."

1. Every man, of whatever class or profession, should be married; it is a duty he owes to himself as well as to the community with which he is about to be associated; to the labourer a wife brings riches; to the man of property she saves expenses; young men are kept by marriage from dissipation and *ennui*; and to the elder it gives a position in society which he would not otherwise enjoy.

2. A field for success lies open to the honest and industrious of all ranks; the labourer as well as the capitalist will find room for exertion.

3. On leaving England capital should be brought out in bills of exchange or letters of credit; these, except during the wool

season,* are at a premium of from one to five per cent; sometimes merchandise may prove a profitable investment—just now it is otherwise; gold and silver are always at par, the insurance therefore is lost, to say nothing of the trouble which such a charge would entail.

4. If it be intended to enter into a profession or business that would keep the practitioner in a town, it is advisable to bring out all his own furniture, glass, crockery, cutlery, table linen and household utensils. If his view is to be a squatter, the less he incumbers himself with the better, except a few articles of ironmongery. Drays and implements of husbandry may be brought out with advantage by the farmer; and all should have tents to live in during the first weeks of sojourn and while employed in landing their freight or looking about for a theatre of action, as lodgings, whether private or in hotels, are scarce and expensive, and building on the spot is a slow process; houses framed in England had better be imported and erected immediately; these will always realise a profit when a more permanent residence is determined upon.

5. Put no faith in the catch-penny publications of the day; be suspicious of puffers and their works; and above all, do not expatriate yourself with sanguine ideas of fortune making or ambition. On the whole, it would be better to form no settled plan of future life; if a decision be made before seeing and judging in person, disappointment is very likely to ensue. Let your prospects be cheerful, and put letters of recommendation behind the fire.—Among a host of advisers, many of whom will be self-interested, vacillation will ensue, and money and time be unprofitably laid out.

6. As regards the voyage, come *direct* to Port Phillip if possible. Give the preference to one of Marshall's ships; for notwithstanding the complaints which are made on every side, and the discomforts which in some cases are more than imaginary, it will be found that these are counterbalanced by punctuality to time of sailing, and the advantage of bringing servants out free of expense under indentures, if desired, for several years.† On board avoid quarrels, familiarity, and the spirit of communicativeness; be reserved upon your own affairs, the amount of your capital and your prospects. An emigrant's outfit should be as small as is compatible with cleanliness and comfort; and if a man of considerable

* A period of the year embracing the months of November, December, January, and February, at which time this product is shipped to Britain as "returns" for goods of home manufacture previously sent to the colony to be disposed of on account of the shippers. It need hardly be added, that bills should be in duplicate, but not triplicate, as the delay arising from the refusal of Banks and Merchants to cash the paper until the arrival of the "last" as well as first and second, may cause no little inconvenience.

† It is difficult to retain labourers, whether male or female, in the service to which they hired in England unless their wages be made somewhat near the current rate in the Colony, and unless they are people with whose character and persons the Emigrant has previously been acquainted. Men ought not to be engaged under £30, nor women under £20 per annum.

means, let him make arrangements with an agent for a regular supply of wines, provisions, and articles of personal luxury.

These six points contain sufficient advice to guide a man of common sense until his arrival at Melbourne. The writer will now proceed to assist him in the difficulties he may meet with at first starting. For the sake of perspicuity immigrants may be divided into three classes: Capitalists, Labourers, and *Intermediates: the last, which will be considered first, is the most unprofitable class both to the colony and themselves, and it is difficult indeed to set them upon the path of independence; in most cases it is advisable that they forthwith reduce themselves into labourers, for of the situations chiefly sought after by this class, clerks and overseers, the salaries are barely adequate to maintenance, and difficult of obtainment. Men who have received and profited by an education which would fit them for keeping books, conducting correspondence, or acting as salesmen *in a really superior manner* can find ready employment, the salaries varying from one hundred and fifty to three hundred and five hundred per annum. The description of subordinates most in request are Book-keepers, Reporters, Bank Accountants, Lawyers' Clerks, Merchants' Salesmen, Chemists' Assistants, and Draftsmen. A young man with any funds at all, anxious to get on, had better, however, take a *working* overseer's berth, obtaining leave from his employer to run a few sheep or head of cattle amongst his flocks and herds; and after serving an apprenticeship of seven years, his experience will insure situations of trust, while his funds will have insensibly accumulated to an independence. Respectable married couples might acquire a speedy competence by opening a Boarding House (the line of retail dealers is at present over stocked,) but if the life of a publican is not too low for the members of the class now under consideration, (many of whom appear to waste their time in unhappy attempts to preserve some fancied station in society,) it is the more lucrative we can point out. There are, it is true, many individuals belonging to this station who more adventurous than the rest, have struck out a line of business for themselves, either as agents or small storekeepers, and have prospered to a surprising degree, but they were chiefly among the oldest settlers who as the town and its population increased, extending necessarily its commerce and their wants, availed themselves of every eligible opportunity that offered to form establishments, and aided by some experience, but more by good fortune have increased with the place, and are now affluent and respectable; at present however, Melbourne is full to repletion of Merchants, Agents, Brokers, and Retail Dealers of every description; Geelong in the District of Geelong, and Portland at Portland Bay are rising settlements, and will doubtless have many openings in their local trade for those who have a fair proportion of mental foresight and calculation, joined to personal

* By this term no allusion is meant to the class of passengers arriving in the Colony under this name, many of whom, although men of capital, are obliged to choose this station when desirous of being accompanied by a large family.

perseverance and promptitude. These remarks it must be remembered are intended for men who without having been brought up to labour and deficient in funds, leave England with an idea of living upon their wits and making their fortunes in a hurry. To them it is again therefore urged, that unless suitable places be obtained in a very short time after landing and before the temptations of low debauchery, have ruined their characters, they should at once meet the exigencies of their circumstances by turning working overseers to stockholders, or tilling small leasehold farms with the labour of their own hands. Under the division of Labourers it is intended to include Mechanics and operatives of every denomination. The first and perhaps only piece of advice which they require is as to the rate of wages or the prices of their respective abilities in labour and mechanical trades; for their guidance the following list has been compiled:—

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

Male.	per ann.	Female.
*Husbandmen.....	£52	
Bullock Drivers.....	50	
Ploughmen	45	
Dairymen	40	Dairywomen £30
Shepherds	40	
Stockmen	40	
Gardeners	60	
Hutkeepers	35	Hutkeepers 30

A married couple can get employment, if unincumbered with young families at the rate of £60 or £70 per annum; they who have a number of children whose age requires their maintenance at home, should endeavour to stay in towns, the husband working by the day, the wife taking in washing of which a plentiful supply might be obtained at 6s. per dozen.

HOUSEHOLD SERVANTS.

Male.	per ann.	Female.	per ann.
Butler	£50	Housekeeper	£35
Groom	40	Housemaid	30
Cook	52	Cook	35
Gardener	60	Needle Woman.....	30
Labourer	40	Nurse	25

Besides these enumerated are a particular class who work in town or country, chiefly by the job, and include,

Bush Carpenters, Sawyers, Splitters and Fencers, Grubbers and Fellers, and Shearers; unlike the foregoing who are all rationed, they arrange to purchase, from their employer for the time being, their provisions, tobacco, and soap, at a fixed rate; they readily earn from £3 - £5 per week.

The usual method of rationing is by giving as full an allowance of meat, bread, and tea, substituting occasionally rice or vegetables,

* One who can plough, reap, sow, drive, milk cows, herd cattle, mow, and do everything that is required from a general farm servant.

and milk where these are procurable, as each person can consume. A style of living which when we consider the miserable pittance at home, and especially in Ireland, is princely.

The third class, or mechanics, labour by the week or day, the rate of wages, averaging for Printers, Engravers, Lithographers, Bookbinders, Silversmiths, Tailors, and Gunsmiths, £3 to £5 per week, and as much work after hours as they choose to ask for.

For Carpenters, Joiners, Shoemakers, Wheelwrights, Boat Builders, fourteen shillings per diem.

For Stonemasons, Bricklayers, Brickmakers, Painters and Glaziers, Bakers, Butchers, Plasterers, Blacksmiths, Fellmongers, Tanners, and Whitesmiths, twelve shillings per diem.

For Females, engagements at two pounds per week, as bonnet makers and dressmakers, can easily be obtained.

Common Labourers in Towns, including Carters and Porters find employment at 8s. per diem.

It can hardly be said for what description of workmen there is the least or greatest demand, nor indeed does it appear particularly necessary to make the distinction, for any adult possessed of health should he not meet an engagement in his own line, can never remain out of employment in another, if willing to make himself useful.

As Mechanics and Labourers by the day or week have to support themselves, the following list of prices containing every article of consumption, as well as of household or personal use, carefully compiled is annexed, for their information:—

Advertisements (six lines)	£	s.	d.	Books—Bible, Society's price 1s. 6d. to	£	s.	d.
Almanac	0	2	6	Bonnet, Silk	1	10	0
Almonds, per lb.	0	3	0	straw	1	0	0
Allspice, per lb.	0	1	0	Brush, scrubbing	0	1	6
Arrowroot, per lb.	0	1	6	shoe, (set of)	0	3	0
Beef, per joint, per lb.	0	0	6	hearth	0	2	6
Beer, colonial, per gall.	0	1	6	Basin & Ewer, metal.			
Bed-hair, or wool-				crockery.	0	14	0
mattress	2	12	0	Blacking, per bottle	0	1	6
Bedstead, or stretcher				Bacon, per lb.	0	1	3
(wood)	2	10	0	Bag, gunny	0	1	0
Bread, per loaf of 2 lbs.	0	0	6	Bank, interest on de-			
Butter, fresh, per lb.	0	2	6	posit, per £100	7	0	0
salt, do.	0	1	6	On current, account	4	0	0
Bellows	0	7	6	Baptism, surplice fee	0	10	0
Blue, per lb.	0	2	0	Barm, per quart	0	1	6
Boots, men's strong	0	16	0	Barrister, retaining			
women's, cloth.	0	8	0	fee	5	0	0
boys	0	14	0	Boat-hire, per day	1	0	0
Barley, pearl, per lb.	0	0	6	Broom or besom, each	0	1	0
Brandy, per pint	0	5	0	Bucket, 2 gallon each	0	6	0
Bath Brick, each	0	0	10	Barrow-wheel	1	0	0
Baby Linen, suit	7	0	0	Boat-whale	28	0	0

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Buttons, metal, p. gross	0	3	0	Eggs, fowls, per doz.	0	3	0
bone . . .	0	3	0	Firewood, per cart load	0	7	0
shirt . . .	0	4	6	Fire irons, a set . . .	1	5	0
Bottles, per dozen . . .	0	0	9	Fire dogs, a pair . . .	0	10	0
Bombazine, per yard . . .	0	3	6	Fender	1	0	0
Cheese, colonial, p. lb.	0	1	0	Fish, snapper, per doz.	0	6	0
Chairs, each	0	12	6	oysters, ditto . . .	0	3	0
Candles dips, per lb. . .	0	0	9	Fowls, a couple . . .	0	10	0
moulds, do	0	0	10	Fryingpan	0	1	6
spermacetti, do	0	2	6	Flour, first, per lb. . .	0	0	5
wax, do.	0	3	0	, seconds, ditto . . .	0	0	4
Coffee, ground, per lb.	0	1	6	, ration, ditto . . .	0	0	3
Currants, per lb	0	1	6	Fat, rendered, per lb. .	0	0	5
Carpeting, per yard . . .	0	5	6	Geese, a couple	0	15	0
Clock, (without case) . .	1	10	0	Ginger, per oz.	0	0	3
Cordage, English, p. lb.	0	1	3	Glass, looking, 12 x 9 .	1	0	0
Clothes, man's best				tumblers, per doz.	0	16	0
per suit	10	0	0	wine, ditto	0	14	0
common	2	0	0	window, 12 x 10 . . .	3	0	0
boys,	3	15	0	Gloves, leather strong .	0	2	6
fine, each	0	1	6	cotton	0	1	6
Cauliflower, each	0	0	3	Gridiron	0	1	0
Cabbage, ditto	0	0	1	Gunpowder, per lb. . .	0	3	0
Carrots, bunch	0	0	6	Hams, per lb.	0	1	0
Cart	15	0	0	Hats, plam leaf, each .	0	6	0
water, with barrel . . .	22	0	0	beaver	1	0	0
Cap, Scotch	0	3	6	Hay, bush, per cwt. . .	0	4	0
Carting, per load	0	2	0	oaten, ditto	0	15	0
Casks, water per ton . .	2	15	0	Horse-cart	60	0	0
harness	2	10	0	hire per day	1	0	0
Canvass, No. 4 per yard	0	1	6	House, wooden			
Catchup, per pint	0	3	6	20 x 12 feet	50	0	0
Cloak, camblet, wo-				Knives & forks, bone			
man's	2	10	0	handled per doz.	0	15	0
Combs, side per set . . .	0	2	0	clasp, each	0	2	6
Cow	12	0	0	pen, ditto	0	7	6
Cinnamon, per lb.	0	0	6	Kettle, iron, 4 quarts .	0	8	0
Cups and Saucers,				Lamb, per quarter . . .	0	6	0
half dozen	0	5	0	Linen, per yard	0	4	0
Cradle	1	0	0	table, ditto.	0	6	0
Cloves, per lb.	0	4	6	Lard, per lb.	0	1	6
Dish, tin baking	0	3	0	Leather, kip, per lb.	0	1	3
Dishes, per set of four .	0	6	0	Liquorice, per oz. . . .	0	0	2
corner do. each	0	4	0	Mace, per oz.	0	1	6
Dog, Shepherds'	1	0	0	Mangling, per doz. . . .	0	0	3
Bakers'	1	15	0	Marriage license	5	5	0
Doctors, fee	0	10	6	Muslin, per yard	0	2	0
Ducks, a pair.	0	14	0	Milk, per quart	0	0	8
Dustpan.	0	2	6	Mop	0	2	0
Dog cart	3	0	0	Mustard, per lb.	0	2	6

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Musket	1	10	0	Sheeting per yard . . .	0	2	0
Newspaper, single copy	0	1	0	Shoes, men's strong pair	0	10	0
sub. per annum . . .	2	0	0	„ boy's ditto . . .	0	7	0
Needles, best per 100 . .	0	2	0	„ women's ditto . . .	0	7	6
Nutmeg, per oz.	0	1	0	Silk, per yard.	0	4	0
Onions, per lb.	0	1	0	Sieve	0	2	6
Oars, ash, per foot . . .	0	1	3	Snuff, per oz.	0	1	0
Oil, per gallon, black . .	0	7	0	Soap, brown, per lb. . .	0	0	7
per gallon, sperm . . .	0	16	0	Socks, woollen, men's			
Oven, Dutch	2	10	0	per dozen	0	15	0
Oatmeal, per lb.	0	0	6	Stockings, cotton, wo-			
Paper, curl, per quire . .	0	1	0	men's per dozen . . .	0	18	0
letter, ditto	0	1	6	Spade	0	5	0
foolscap, ditto	0	2	0	Shovel	0	5	0
Pens, per 100.	0	10	0	Spoons, metal, per doz.	0	5	0
Pepper, per oz.	0	0	1	Starch, per oz.	0	0	1½
Porkers, each.	2	0	0	Stays, a pair	1	5	0
Pins, per oz., best . . .	0	0	6	Safe, wire meat	3	0	0
Plates, tin, per doz. . .	0	8	0	Sago, per lb.	0	0	6
crockery, ditto	0	1	0	Sugar, brown	0	0	4
Pork, per lb.	0	0	9	„ refined	0	0	10
Pots, iron per lb.	0	0	6	Table, deal or cedar . .	2	10	0
Prints, per yard	0	1	6	Treacle, per lb.	0	0	9
Pickles, per quart . . .	0	3	6	Tea, per lb. hysonskin .	0	4	6
Potatoes, per lb.	0	0	2	Thread, per oz.	0	5	0
Rice, per lb.	0	0	4	Toweling, per yard . . .	0	1	6
Raisins, per lb.	0	0	8	Tobacco, negrohead . .	0	5	0
Sack flour, 100 lbs. . .	4	0	0	Water, per cask 100 gal	0	2	0
Salt, per lb. table . . .	0	0	4	Washing, per dozen . .	0	6	0
„ pickling, per lb. . .	0	0	2	Vinegar, per gallon . .	0	5	0
„ cellars, metal, pair . .	0	5	0	Wines, white per bottle	0	3	6
„ ditto, glass, „ . . .	0	4	0	„ port, per ditto . . .	0	3	6

Coming to the second great class of immigrants, capitalists, it remains to point out for their especial guidance the most eligible investment of monies, which the various resources of the country, natural and commercial, may offer to their present foresight and calculation, their future application and enterprise. Among the principal and most favorite means may be enumerated:—

1. Stock or the rearing of sheep, cattle and horses, including culture of wool.

2. Land, either for the purposes of building, speculation, or agriculture.

3. Mercantile Pursuits.

4. Mortgages.

5. Bank and Company's shares.

Respecting the first, a gentleman of practical experience offered to the author the following suggestion: “a man of small capital should invest his funds in sheep; another, of moderate means, should choose cattle; and an immigrant, of large resources should

give the preference to horses." To enable the reader to calculate before hand the respective rates of profit, the accompanying tabular estimates have been drawn out. It will be seen that the returns are estimated for ten years; that the smallest possible capital with which a man may venture to invest in stock independently, or £600, has been taken as the basis; that the returns from sheep are quicker, and even in the end more profitable, but the casualties are so much greater, that it would be advisable, as well to meet liabilities of this nature as those occasioned by the frequent fluctuations in the prices of stock, to distribute capital from the first, if the amount will allow of it, or as it increases, if otherwise, on various kinds of stock, so as to insure the most steady rates of proceeds and profit;—

SHEEP ESTIMATE.

INCREASE.			ANNUAL EXPENSES.				ANNUAL PROFIT.					
DATE.	Ewes	Wethers	Total	No. of men	Consumption in wethers	Wages and Rations	Expenses on stock, &c.	Wethers sold, and value	Wool sold	Total value	Total value of Expenses	Annual profit
July, 1838, ..	133	133	266	2	30	£150	£20	"	£60	£60	£170	Defn. 100
Feb., 1839, ..	133	133	620	2	30	£150	£20	"	£138	£138	£170	Defn. 32
Sept., "	177	177	{ 1,006	3	40	£225	£25	100 at £50	£219	£269	£250	£19
April, 1840, ..	222	222		3	40	£225	£30	280 at £140	£243	£383	£255	£168
Nov., "	281	281	710	3	40	£225	£40	280 at £140	£243	£383	£255	£168
June, 1841, ..	355	355	2,030	5	66	£385	£40	483 at £241	£441	£682	£425	£257
Jan., 1842, ..	448	448	{ 3,242	8	100	£600	£40	315 at £157	£705	£862	£640	£222
Augt., "	567	567		5	66	£385	£40					
Mar., 1843, ..	716	716	{ 4,666	12	150	£900	£100	949 at £474	£951	£1,425	£1,000	£625*
Oct., "	905	905		12	150	£900	£100					
May, 1844, ..	1,000	1,000	3,558	15	200	£1,125	£150	1,521 at £760	£1,350	£2,110	£1,275	£835
Dec., "	1,333	1,333	{ 10,078	22	300	£1,694	£200	2,153 at £1076	£1,904	£2,980	£1,894	£1,086
July, 1845, ..	1,779	1,779		22	300	£1,694	£200					
Feb., 1846, ..	2,223	2,223	{ 16,172	36	500	£2,700	£350	1,579 at £789	£3,222	£4,011	£3,050	£1,961
Sept., "	2,816	2,816		36	500	£2,700	£350					
April, 1847, ..	3,590	3,590	{ 11,384	50	800	£3,750	£500	4,739 at £2369	£5,616	£7,985	£4,250	£3,735
Nov., "	4,496	4,496		50	800	£3,750	£500					
June, 1848, ..	5,692	5,692										
	26,866	26,866	53,732		2256	£11,904	£1,475	12,119 at £5986	£14,849	£20,905	£13,379	£8,908
		Deduct. .26,866				Wethers sold, killed and lost.			{ * 400 original Ewes sold at 10s. included in this sum.			

There remain .26,866 Ewes of all ages, which at 10s. equal £13,433.

The above tabular return was calculated by Mr. J. Purves, and kindly presented for publication to the author. In explanation, it should be observed that the original stock consist of 400 ewes, at £1 a head, which, with £200 additional for incidental disbursements, compose the total primary outlay, that the increase is considered equal to 75 per cent every 9 months; that wool is supposed to realize 1s. per lb.; wethers, 10s. each; and that the whole remaining stock is valued at 10s. all round. It should also be remembered that the expenses are taken as high as possible, the profits on the lowest scale, and yet the proceeds yield an income averaging £800 per annum; and the stock, at a great sacrifice, produce £13,000.

[illegible]

HORSE ESTIMATE.

DATE.	INCREASE.			ANNUAL EXPEND.		ANNUAL PROCEEDS.		ANNUAL PROFIT.
	Males	Fe-males	Total	Men	Wages & Rations	Geld-ings sold	Value	
Dec., 1838	3	3	12	0	£00	"	"	£00
" 1839	3	3	18	0	00	"	"	00
" 1840	5	4	27	0	00	"	"	00
" 1841	6	6	39	1	75	3	£120	120
" 1842	8	8	55	1	75	3	120	45
" 1843	12	12	79	1	75	5	200	125
" 1844	16	16	111	1	75	6	240	165
" 1845	22	22	155	2	150	8	320	170
" 1846	30	30	215	2	150	12	480	330
" 1847	41	41	297	2	150	16	640	490
" 1848	66	66	429	3	150	22	880	660
	212	211		13	£900	75	£3,000	£2,105
		212						
		423						
	Add.....		6	original stock.				
		429						
	Deduct.....		75	geldings sold.				
			354	head of stock, comprising—				
			66	horse foals, at	£0	0	0	
			66	filly ditto, at	0	0	0	
			41	one year old colts, at £15.....	615	0	0	
			41	one year old fillies, at £20	820	0	0	
			30	two year old colts, at £30.....	900	0	0	
			110	mares two yrs. and upwards, at £65	7150	0	0	
			Total.....		£9,485	0	0	

In this return the original stock consists of 6 mares, which, at £70 a head, equal £420; and this, with £180 for incidental disbursements, forms the primary outlay; as no allowance is made for casualties, the increase is 100 per cent. Geldings rising three years, sold annually, are valued at £30 a head; the smallest possible allowance is made on the profits, the largest on the expenses, yet the returns of ten years realize £9,500.—It is understood that for the first four years the stock is kept in conjunction with a sheep station or agricultural farm.

* There is a small assessment upon stock under the squatting act, but which, from the difficulty of computation, is omitted, its amount should be placed under annual expenses.

SHEEP ESTIMATE.

INCREASE.			ANNUAL EXPENSES.				ANNUAL PROFIT.					
DATE.	Ewes	Wethers	Total	No. of men	Con- sumption in wethers	Wages and Rations	Expenses on stock, &c.	Wethers sold, and value	Wool sold	Total value	Total value of Expenses	Annual profit
July, 1838, ..	133	133	266	2	30	£150	£20	"	£60	£60	£170	Def. 100
Feb., 1839, ..	133	133	620	2	30	£150	£20	"	£138	£138	£170	Def. 32
Sept., " ..	177	177										
April, 1840, ..	222	222	1,006	3	40	£225	£25	100 at £50	£219	£269	£250	£19
Nov., " ..	281	281										
June, 1841, ..	355	355	710	3	40	£225	£30	280 at £140	£243	£383	£255	£168
Jan., 1842, ..	448	448										
Augt., " ..	567	567	2,030	5	66	£385	£40	483 at £241	£441	£682	£425	£257
Mar., 1843, ..	716	716										
Oct., " ..	905	905	3,242	8	100	£600	£40	315 at £157	£705	£862	£640	£222
May, 1844, ..	1,000	1,000										
Dec., " ..	1,333	1,333	4,666	12	150	£900	£100	949 at £474	£951	£1,425	£1,000	£625*
July, 1845, ..	1,779	1,779	3,558	15	200	£1,125	£150	1,521 at £760	£1,350	£2,110	£1,275	£835
Feb., 1846, ..	2,223	2,223										
Sept., " ..	2,816	2,816	10,078	22	300	£1,694	£200	2,153 at £1076	£1,904	£2,980	£1,894	£1,086
April, 1847, ..	3,590	3,590										
Nov., " ..	4,496	4,496	16,172	36	500	£2,700	£350	1,579 at £789	£3,222	£4,011	£3,050	£1,961
June, 1848, ..	5,692	5,692	11,384	50	800	£3,750	£500	4,739 at £2369	£5,616	£7,985	£4,250	£3,735
	26,866	26,866	53,732		2256	£11,904	£1,475	12,119 at £5986	£14,849	£20,905	£13,379	£8,908
		Deduct.. 26,866				Wethers sold, killed and lost.						

There remain . 26,866 Ewes of all ages, which at 10s. equal £13,433.

* 400 original Ewes sold at 10s. included in this sum.

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* 400 original Ewes sold at 10s. included in this sum.

The above tabular return was calculated by Mr. J. Purves, and kindly presented for publication to the author. In explanation, it should be observed that the original stock consist of 400 ewes, at £1 a head, which, with £200 additional for incidental disbursements, compose the total primary outlay, that the increase is considered equal to 75 per cent every 9 months; that wool is supposed to realize 1s. per lb.; wethers, 10s. each; and that the whole remaining stock is valued at 10s. all round. It should also be remembered that the expenses are taken as high as possible, the profits on the lowest scale, and yet the proceeds yield an income averaging £800 per annum; and the stock, at a great sacrifice, produce £13,000.

The high price at which land is bought, arising chiefly from a prospective value attached to it through its proximity to the three principal towns of the province,* precludes the idea of a stockholder's laying out his capital in land for the use of his flocks and herds, particularly when the finest and most extensive runs can be obtained upon annual leases from the local government. This mode of procedure, which is technically termed squatting, is regulated by colonial laws, the force of which it is very necessary that every immigrant should be made acquainted with. The province, as before stated, is divided into two districts,† to each of which a Commissioner of Crown Lands is appointed, empowered to receive and recommend applications for leasing vacant crown lands, and to whom, of course, the emigrant having chosen his location, must apply in a particular form (copies of which can be obtained of any printing office in town,) for a license to squat or depasture stock. That officer, if he approve of the applicant's character, signs and forwards the above described document to the Sub Treasurer, who grants the license upon the payment of a fee of ten pounds to the revenue. Under this license the squatter is protected in the exclusive use of the run described, with its wood, water, and land,‡ provided always the same do not in any way infringe upon the rights of others, and between whom, if any disputes should arise, the Commissioner is authorised to adjudicate. Every six months a return of stock, &c. must be made to the Commissioner under heavy penalties for neglect, and each squatter is enjoined by the act to avoid all illegal actions, particularly those of sly grog selling or the encouragement of such fault and concubinage with aboriginal females. "When the run is obtained a couple of good fencers should be engaged and despatched immediately to take possession, erect huts, put up a stockyard and make hurdles for the reception of stock. This being arranged and a team of oxen and dray purchased for the purpose of drawing in stuff for fencers and the transport of stores for the station, the purchase of cattle and horses or sheep, may be proceeded with. The cows should be about four years old and in calf, or have calves with them; bulls same age. A number of oxen, different ages, should also be purchased to kill for rations and to break in for work during the first three years, at the end of which the increase of the cows purchased will be old enough for that purpose. The mares ought not to be above six years old, and to have foals with them. In buying sheep great caution is to be observed, first, that they are and have been free from disease; second, that they are even in the staple, well bred and not above three or four years old. The Merino breed of sheep has been in the older colonies most extensively cultivated for the growth of fine wool, but in Australia Felix the best judges have decided that the moisture of the climate, together with the abundance and quality of herbage,

* Melbourne, Geelong, and Portland.

† Western Port and Geelong.

‡ This does not include the cutting of timber for sale, for which a distinct license is required.

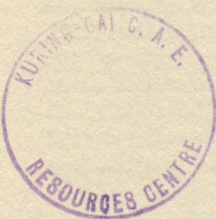
require a pretty general introduction of the Leicester for the growth of a larger carcase, which must in a degree be combined with long staple wool to render sheep farming profitable to its greatest capability. The cattle, horses and sheep being purchased, stockmen and shepherds engaged, these should then be driven to the station, where, if the stockyards are finished, the former must be yarded every night for a month and herded all day, until reconciled to the run; this treatment is particularly necessary for working cattle, the loss of which as well as of horses gives rise to great loss of time and money, much inconvenience and a vexatious feeling that is likely to mar the first hopes of success. The stock having arrived at the station, the best and clearest spot of ground should be selected for cultivation, that the plough may be set agoing, and about thirty acres broke up, cross ploughed and made ready for the seed, which ought to be in the ground in all May and June, but which often succeeds sown so late as September and even October should rain be plentiful and the summer at all mild; an acre per day is the usual task for a good team if exchanged with another for a week in rotation; this plan must be adopted on new or stiff land, as from the heat in summer, oxen are easily overdone." The most necessary crops are wheat for flour—barley for hay—oats for horses—tobacco for sheep, and potatoes for household consumption—wheat, oats and maize produce commonly, forty bushels to the acre, potatoes twelve tons, and tobacco three tons; this weed grows easily and abundantly without any preparation or trouble if sown on ground where sheep have been previously folded; after coming to maturity, the leaves and stalks are dried, and when boiled, make a salutary wash for the scab in sheep. All the directions which are necessary for shearing, dressing and washing sheep, for cutting and branding lambs, calves and foals, the management of the dairy, erection of huts, and stockyards, breaking in bullocks, fencing, ploughing, and the details of farming, in all of which operations, *it is absolutely necessary that the settler should be personally conversant and assisting*—must be acquired by degrees and in the way of inquiry and experience, as the relation here would swell the present work far beyond its proper limits. Dr. Lang in his very able work upon N. S. Wales, after exposing the evil originating in the sheep mania and deprecating the injurious neglect of agriculture, so predominant throughout the colony, observes that there is no country where the natural resources of soil and climate are so well calculated to render gentlemen independent in farming, and asserts that all the persons with whom he is acquainted engaged in that pursuit, are in the enjoyment of incomes, varying from £500 to £5000 per annum, in proportion to the time engaged. Having examined into and reflected upon the same subject as applicable to this province, the writer is desirous to yield every support to his predecessor's opinion, and would if asked for advice at any time, pronounce upon the advantages of farming to educated young men of small capital especially if married. A far greater degree of comfort and safety is insured to females, while the varied occupa-

tions must be more congenial to minds which becoming *distract* with the solitude and privations of the bush would probably resort too frequently to the expensive and abrading excitement of the town; to farm indeed a stock station, young men would have to wander at least one hundred miles from Melbourne, or fifty from Portland, Geelong, or Fairy; where to small capitalists the expense of carriage, and the risk pendant upon the mutinous behaviour or desertion of men are too great to be rashly encountered. With cultivation it would be advisable to join the management of a small but choice stock of dairy cows and working oxen; butter milk, poultry, pigs, eggs, vegetables, corn, and all the productions of an ordinary English farm, realize remunerating prices in town markets, whence an exchange of every article of comfort and luxury is readily and shortly attainable. The mode of obtaining land in this province is by public auction, at the periodical government sales, when a section of land can be purchased conjointly, by three or four parties, and subsequently apportioned between them; ten per cent deposit is required, and the remainder must be paid into the sub Treasurer's hands at Melbourne one month after the day of sale, on pain of forfeiting deposit and land. A continuous survey of the country is made by the government in particular lines, and sold at intervals according to the demand that is supposed to exist, at an upset price of twelve shillings per acre, at which time *only* can land be acquired from the government. Immigrants therefore, if desirous of avoiding delay, should purchase from private holders of property; by this latter method, a much more liberal credit is obtained, although the price may be considerably higher. By enquiry at the survey-office where the immigrant is sure of meeting every attention, he can examine plans and maps of the country surveyed or advertised for the ensuing sale, and should of course personally inspect those portions and ascertain their capabilities before bidding. The country for a square of twenty miles in the neighbourhood of Melbourne, and of ten around Geelong has already been sold; the land to be disposed of immediately beyond these boundaries, will probably realize One pound five shillings per acre, and although this price as compared with that at South Australia may be considered high, yet the greater facility for carriage, the superior adaptation of soil and climate will more than equalize the differences in original cost; besides when it is considered that it is possible to buy the best land at *twelve* shillings an acre, and *from* that to one pound, even this argument on the side of the Sister Province fails in its strength. Were the government indeed to watch more attentively the pulse of the market, the supply of land might always be so proportioned to the demand as to keep its price at fifteen shillings, and yet add nothing to the price of labour by decreasing the Emigration fund, for by increasing the quantity of land in an inverse ratio to the price obtained per acre, the annual revenue might continue to be equally profitable and the productive exports of the country be greatly assisted. Upon the remaining modes of investing capital to which we particularly alluded, it may be remarked that building

yields a profit of fifty per cent per annum, but should be resorted to chiefly by professional men, and others whose pursuits confine themselves to towns; that the business of a merchant, if an opinion may be formed from the prosperity of Melbourne and its trade, in which the merchants are principally interested—must be lucrative, that mortgages on landed property can be effected at thirty per cent for seven years—and that Bank and Companys' shares are generally chosen as investments by capitalists, when realizing and concentrating to return home, and have hitherto insured an average of fifteen per cent in England, free of all costs and deductions.

Having now discussed every point which in the commencement it was proposed to examine, exceeding indeed the limits of my original intention, I have only to add that it is my first wish to find these pages of use to the young settler in instructing him at the outset of his career in matters of local interest, and if it's perusal should strengthen among the political friends of the province, the claim of Port Phillip to Independance, my utmost ambition will be gratified. Until therefore a more favorable opportunity, more extended means, together with advanced experience enable me again to advocate her cause, I wish to continue as hitherto the humble but zealous friend of Australia Felix.

G. ARDEN.



APPENDIX (A.)

DIRECTIONS FOR ENTERING PORT PHILLIP,

*By Captain William Hobson, R. N., of Her Majesty's Ship
"Rattlesnake."*

In approaching Port Phillip from the westward, the entrance cannot be distinguished until Point Nepean bears N.N.E.; then you open Shortland Bluff, and obtain a view of the Estuary. But the position of the entrance is easily determined by its situation with respect to Mount Flinders to the westward, and Arthur's Seat to the eastward.

Mount Flinders is a small flat topped hill at the extremity of the Low Land; it makes like an island, and bears W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. from Port Nepean.

Arthur's Seat is the highest land on the coast westward of Western Port; from the southward its north-west extremity appears precipitous; it slopes to the south-east, and its summit bears from Point Nepean E. $\frac{1}{2}$ S.

Point Nepean, on the eastern side of the entrance, is situated at the extremity of a peninsula, which slopes gradually from the base of Arthur's Seat; at one-sixth of a mile N.W. by W. from the Point is a low rocky islet, connected with the shore by a reef, which dries at low water; even in calm weather the sea breaks on it with considerable violence.

Point Lonsdale, on the western side, is a low point jutting out from a dark rocky cliff, from which a reef runs two cables length to the eastward, and forms the southern extremity of a Bay that terminates at Shortland Bluff to the northward.

To enter Port Phillip a fair wind or a flood tide is indispensable; with a fair wind keep in mid channel between Point Nepean and Point Lonsdale, and steer in for Shortland Bluff* until Point Nepean bears S. E. by S., then shape a course as hereafter directed for the channel through which you mean to pass; with a beating wind do not approach Point Lonsdale nearer than a quarter of a mile, and be careful to avoid a sunken rock which lies N. W. by W., two cables length from the rocky islet off Point Nepean.

The soundings across the entrance are very irregular, varying in one cast from seven to twenty-four fathoms, and again suddenly shoaling to five or six.

* On this head-land the light-house is expected to be erected, the beacon of which will indicate the entrance at night, the anchorage within the heads, and the course inside the bay.

On the edge of the reef of Point Lonsdale is a depth of five fathoms close to the rocks, and the same depth on the southern edge of the reef that extends from Point Nepean to the rocky islet.

The tide in the entrance runs with considerable force in the height of the springs, the Prince George cutter could not make head against it when going at the rate of seven knots. From its impetuosity, and the irregularity of the bottom, a rippling is created which in rough weather would render it very unsafe for an undecked vessel to pass through, and presents to a stranger so much the appearance of breakers, that it requires good nerve to venture on.

If the wind should be light, care must be taken to get into the fair way before you come too near the reefs, as the flood tide sets across them towards the entrance of the port, with great strength.

As the entrance is only contracted by projecting points, with a favourable tide or a fair wind, you are soon within them, and then if you are desirous to anchor, a good berth may be found any where between Observatory Point and Point King, within half a mile of the shore, in seven fathoms, clay bottom.

When bound through the Western Channel, take care to avoid a little shoal called the Pope's Eye, on which there is only twelve feet. The following marks will place you exactly on it. Swan Point N. 1° E. (Magc) Mount Eliza, summit on with north end of the flat Island.

If bound through the Western Channel, pass to the westward of Pope's Eye, by keeping Swan Point to the northward of N. $\frac{3}{4}$ E., until Shortland Bluff bears W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S., and steer for the entrance of the channel which lies between a shoal that commences two cables length to the northward of Swan Point and the west bank, to clear the bank off Swan Point, keep Point Lonsdale just open with Shortland Bluff, until Swan Point bears N. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., the course than is N. N. E., and midchannel will be preserved by keeping Point Nepean a finger's breadth open with Swan Point, the soundings are from four fathoms at the centre, to a quarter less three at the sides from which the banks shoal suddenly to five or six feet, and in some places dry at low water, when Station Peak is seen over the north red cliff, bearing N. 72 degrees W., you are clear to the northward of the banks, and will be in seven fathoms water. In approaching from the northward, bring Point Nepean open with Swan Point before the north red bank bears N. 72° W., and follow the leading marks.*

In beating through, you must be guided by the eye on the eastern side when the shoals shew themselves very distinctly, and take care not to shut the marks. In standing to the westward, at all times, it is advisable to keep a person aloft, whence the shoals may generally be distinguished. The tide runs from two to three knots per hour, and follows the direction of the channel. To pass through the south channel when fairly within the port, keep along the south shore, at a mile distance, in nine or ten fathoms water, until

* This channel has now a buoy marking the entrance on the edge of Pope's Eye, two more on the edge of the shoals on either hand, and a fourth on the Swan Spit.

abreast of Point King, from which situation an E. by S. course, with very slight deviations, will carry you through. It is impossible to find any leading mark for a channel so long, and in some places, so narrow, that it not more liable to perplex a stranger than to guide him. The only certain measures of navigating it, until regularly buoyed, is by the eye from aloft, and when the weather is too hazy to show the banks it is not safe to go through.

The soundings in the south channel are very irregular, from sixteen fathoms to five, and close to the edge of the banks, from that to three, two, and one fathom. Although the deepest water is to be found in this channel, it is not to be preferred by vessels drawing less than sixteen feet water, the absence of any leading mark, and its great length, being a great objection.*

The south sand that commences near Point King, forms the south side of the channel, its eastern end bears S. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. (magc), from the white cliff, and to the eastward of that, deep water extends close to the shore.

The northern side of the channel is formed by the middle ground, the western end of which bears N. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. (magc) from Point King, and extends seven miles eastward when Station Peak is on with Indented Head bearing N. W. by W. (magc), and White Cliff S. W. by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., you are clear of the middle ground, and may steer to the northward.

Symond's Channel may be made available in N. or N. W. winds, when unable to fetch through the western channel, but is not recommended for any but small vessels until it is buoyed.

The Pinnacle channel is only suitable for small vessels, the deepest water will be found close along the edge of the great sand.

To pass clear of the shoals to the northward, keep Station Peak on with the extreme of Indented Head, and do not shoal the water under nine fathoms.

From the edge of the bank over the area of Port Phillip, to within a mile of the shore, there is deep water every where, with the exception of the Prince George Bank off Indented Head, and in running and beating towards Hobson's Bay, there is nothing to apprehend.

Hobson's Bay is situated at the northern extremity of the Port, and is the principal anchorage within it; at present it is not very easily distinguished, but the site of a town is marked out on Point Gellibrand, which will hereafter denote its situation, and furnish good marks for anchoring; at present the only direction I can furnish is, to steer in for Point Gellibrand and pass it at two cables length distance, taking care in so doing not to shoal the water under five fathoms, and to anchor when you bring Point Gellibrand to bear S.S.W. in four and a half fathom water; small vessels may bring it to bear south in two fathoms.† If you are bound into

* The Harbour Master in a late Government Notice, has declared this passage to be impracticable, from the shifting of the sands.

† A light-house is now erected on this point, which will at night direct strangers to the anchorage, independent of the lights of the town and numerous shipping.

Geelong harbour from sea, be careful to give a berth of at least two miles from Indented Head to avoid the Prince George Bank, which extends from it in a N. E. direction. In rounding the shoal on the east and north sides do not shoal the water under seven fathoms until Point Richard bears W. by S., you may then haul up for Point Henry.

Do not approach the northern shore nearer than one mile, and in passing Point Wilson keep Point Henry to the westward of W. by S. (magc.); one mile east, or E. by S. from Point Henry, there is tolerable good anchorage.

It is to be regretted that on the Bar at the head of Geelong harbour you cannot ensure more than seven feet at high water; at a cables length within the bar there are five fathoms, and the depth may be carried close up to the shore*; the rise and fall of the tide does not exceed four feet in any part of the port, and more commonly it does not rise beyond two feet six inches on the springs: both the time of high water and the extent to which it rises are greatly influenced by the wind; the force of the tide through the channels leading to the north from the mouth may be estimated at from two to three miles per hour; in the south channel it runs with less force, and in the wide expanse northward of the banks it is scarcely perceptible. We have never been able to estimate the force of the tide in the entrance, except by the report of the Captain of the Prince George revenue cutter.

When it acquires its greatest strength it is not safe for any open boat to venture out, but it is easy to conceive the rapidity with which it must run to raise the level of eight hundred and seventy-five square miles of water four feet by means of so small an embouchure.

* The channel into Geelong is also buoyed, but from the frequent alterations and loss of beacons, both in this and the Western Channel, it is considered unnecessary to give the bearings until better arrangements are effected.

APPENDIX (B.)

Copy of original Treaty between Mr. Batman, on behalf of the Association, and the Aboriginal Native Chiefs of Port Phillip and Geelong, for the purchase of certain territory herein described.

"KNOW ALL MEN, that we, three brothers, Jaga Jaga, Jaga Jaga, Jaga Jaga, being the principal Chiefs, and also Cooloolook, Bungarie, Yanyan, Moowhip, and Mommarmalar, being the Chiefs of a certain tribe called Dutigallar, situate at and near Port Phillip, called by us, the above mentioned Chiefs, Iramoo and Geelong, being possessed of the tract of land hereinafter mentioned, for and in consideration of twenty pair of blankets, thirty knives, twelve tomahawks, ten looking glasses, twelve pair of scissors, fifty handkerchiefs, twelve red shirts, four flannel jackets, four suits of clothes, and fifty pounds of flour, delivered to us by John Batman, residing in Van Diemen's Land, Esquire, but at present sojourning with us and our tribe, do, for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, give, grant, enfeoff, and confirm unto the said John Batman, his heirs and assigns, all that tract of country situate and being in the bay of Port Phillip, known by the name of Indented Head, but called by us Geelong, extending across from Geelong Harbour, about due south for ten miles, more or less, to the head of Port Phillip, taking in the whole neck or tract of land, containing about one hundred thousand acres, as the same hath been before the execution of these presents delineated and marked out by us, according to the custom of our tribe, by certain marks made upon the trees growing along the boundaries of the said tract of land, with all advantages belonging thereto unto and to the use of the said John Batman, his heirs and assigns, to the meaning and intent that the said John Batman, his heirs and assigns, may occupy and possess the said tract of land, and place thereon sheep and cattle, yielding and delivering to us, and our heirs and successors, the yearly rent or tribute of fifty pair of blankets, fifty knives, fifty tomahawks, fifty pairs of scissors, fifty looking glasses, twenty suits of slops or clothing, and two tons of flour. In witness whereof we, Jaga Jaga, Jaga Jaga, Jaga Jaga, the three principal chiefs, and also Cooloolook, Bungarie, Yanyan, Moowhip, and Mommarmalar, the Chiefs of the said tribe, have hereunto affixed our seals to these presents, and have signed the same. Dated according to the Christian Era, this sixth day of June, 1835.

"Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of us, the same having been fully and properly interpreted and explained to the said Chiefs.

JOHN BATMAN,
JAMES GUMM,
WM. TODD.

JAGA JAGA, his x mark.
JAGA JAGA, his x mark.
JAGA JAGA, his x mark.
COOLOOLOOK, his x mark.
BUNGARIE, his x mark.
YANYAN, his x mark.
MOMARMALLAR, his x mark.

"BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the day and year within written, possession and delivery of the tract of land within mentioned was made by the within named Jaga Jaga, Jaga Jaga, Cooloolook, Bungarie, Yanyan, Momarmalar, and Moowhip, Chiefs of the tribes of natives called Dutigaller and Geelong, to the within named John Batman, by the said Chiefs taking up part of the soil and delivering the same to the said John Batman in the name of the whole.

JAGA JAGA,	his x mark.
JAGA JAGA,	his x mark.
JAGA JAGA,	his x mark.
COOLOOLOOK,	his x mark.
BUNGARIE,	his x mark.
YANYAN,	his x mark.
MOOWHIP,	his x mark.
MOMARMALAR,	his x mark.

Signed in presence of,

JAMES GUMM,
ALEXANDER THOMPSON,
WM. TODD.

* In the original document a second deed of grant is inserted, conveying an additional territory, described as "all that tract of country situate and being at Port Phillip, running from the branch of the river at the top of the port, about seven miles from the mouth of the river, 40 miles north-east and from thence west 40 miles across Iramoo downs or plains, and from thence south-west across Mount Vilamanartar to Geelong Harbour, at the head of the same, and containing 500,000, more or less acres." As the form, however, of this is a verbatim copy of the foregoing, it has not been considered necessary to republish it here.

ERRATA.

Page 7, line 17, for "Australia and the island of Van Diemen's Land," read "Australia, the islands of Van Diemen's Land and New Zealand."

Page 8, line 22, *dele* comma (,) after "vallies."

Page 14, line 12, insert the word "future" before "territory."

Page 20, line 7, for "141 W." read "146 W."

Page 24, line 24, for "alike" read "also."

Page 32, line 32, insert E. after "146°."

Page 39, line 41, for "acquainted" read "connected."

Page 41, to the paragraph commencing "Port Fairy," add "The site of a settlement has been lately marked out here."

Page 59, for "£1,392,000" read "£1,417,000."

Page 72, line 32, after "revenue" add "for the first six months of the current year."

Page 75, line 24, after "1838" add "and 1839."

Page 76, line 21, after "1837" insert "1838."

Page 80, line 4 of the first note, read "1828" for 1823."

PORT PHILLIP BANK,

COLLINS-STREET.

CAPITAL : £120,000.

Managing Director—John Gardiner, Esq.

DIRECTORS.

Farquhar M'Crae, Esq.
Daniel S. Campbell, Esq.
Charles Williams, Esq.
Thomas Wills, Esq.
Skene Craig, Esq.

Patricius W. Welsh, Esq.
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Charles Howard, Esq.
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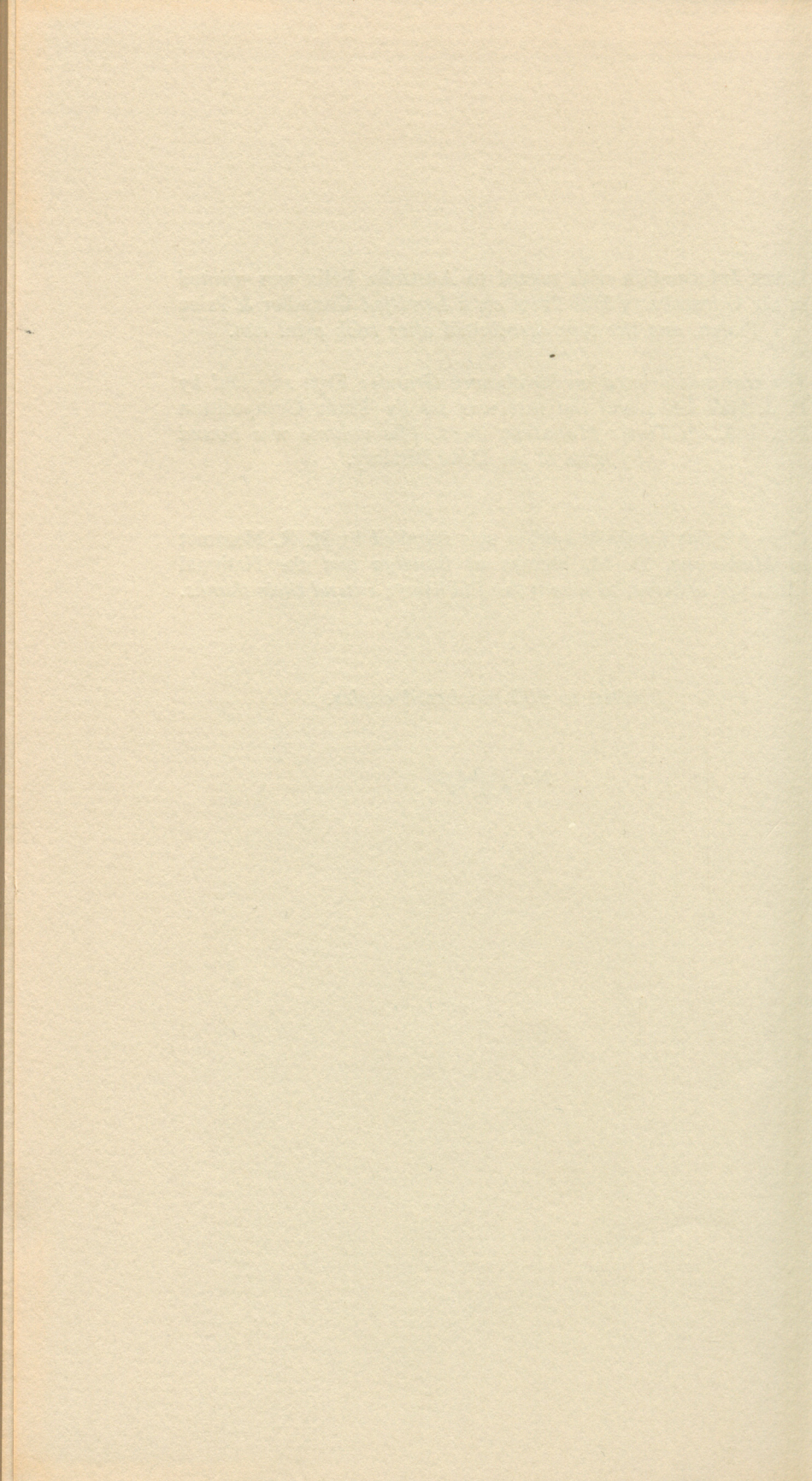
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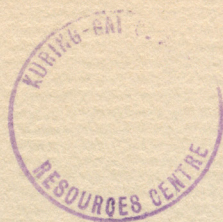
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